

Tuesday March 24 1998

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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Katharine Viner meets a literary legend

Ioni Morrison: voice of America

G2 with European weather

The trouble with returning to work

The maternity minefield

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Education

The real story of Blair's commitment to education

G2 pages 12-13

Yeltsin ignites Russia crisis

Sackings risk power struggle

James Meek in Moscow

AN OBSCURE former shipping engineer, Sergei Kiriyenko, is a heartbeat away from control of a former superpower's nuclear arsenal today after President Boris Yeltsin cast Russia into political turmoil by sacking his long-serving prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and all 33 members of his government.

Mr Yeltsin, a recipient of heart bypass surgery who returned to the Kremlin yesterday after the latest in a long series of illnesses, plucked Mr Kiriyenko, aged 35, from the energy minister's desk to become acting prime minister.

Under the Russian constitution, the prime minister takes over as acting head of state for three months if the president is incapacitated or dies. But because Mr Kiriyenko's new status has not been confirmed, any failure of Mr Yeltsin's fragile health could lead to a struggle without rules for the nuclear button and the governance of Russia.

"The president has begun a new constitutional crisis," said one political analyst, Lilia Shervitova. "Until the new government is approved by parliament we are in a dangerous period."

Mr Chernomyrdin, the stolid, pragmatic, martinet former gas industry chief who over five years as prime minister came to symbolise Russia's hesitant economic reforms, took the unexpected blow on the chair yesterday.

"The hardest, the dirtiest, the most thankless work has, of course, already been done by us," he said. "Now it's necessary to move forward."

The compensation Mr Yeltsin offered him — a job campaigning for Yeltsin allies in future elections — was meagre exchange for the eclipse of Mr Chernomyrdin's own presidential ambitions.

Mr Yeltsin awarded him the Order of Services to the Fatherland, second class.

Asked why he had not been given first class, the presidential press spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said: "That's reserved for the president."

Appearing on television yesterday, Mr Yeltsin spoke warmly of the prime minister's work but said it was time for fresh faces in the cabinet. "The dismissal of the government does not mean a change of course," he said. "It is an effort to make economic reforms more energetic and effective, to give them a political push, a new impulse."

He added: "Unfortunately, people don't feel change is for the better. I believe that recently the government has been lacking dynamism and initiative, new outlooks, fresh approaches and ideas. And without this, a powerful breakthrough in the economy is impossible."

Most members of the government, including the young liberal Boris Nemtsov, will keep their portfolios for the time being while Mr Kiriyenko draws up a cabinet.

But two prominent figures lose their jobs: Anatoly Chubais, the deputy prime minister and unpopular architect of Russian privatisation; and his ideological opposite Anatoly Lukin, the head of the police force and interior ministry.

After shying at the news, financial markets in Russia and around the world settled as Mr Yeltsin, Mr Yastrzhembsky and Mr Kiriyenko in turn promised no change in the government's course of economic reform.

"There will be no new government programme. There will be a continuity of policy," Mr Kiriyenko said, saying he had heard of his appointment only that morning.

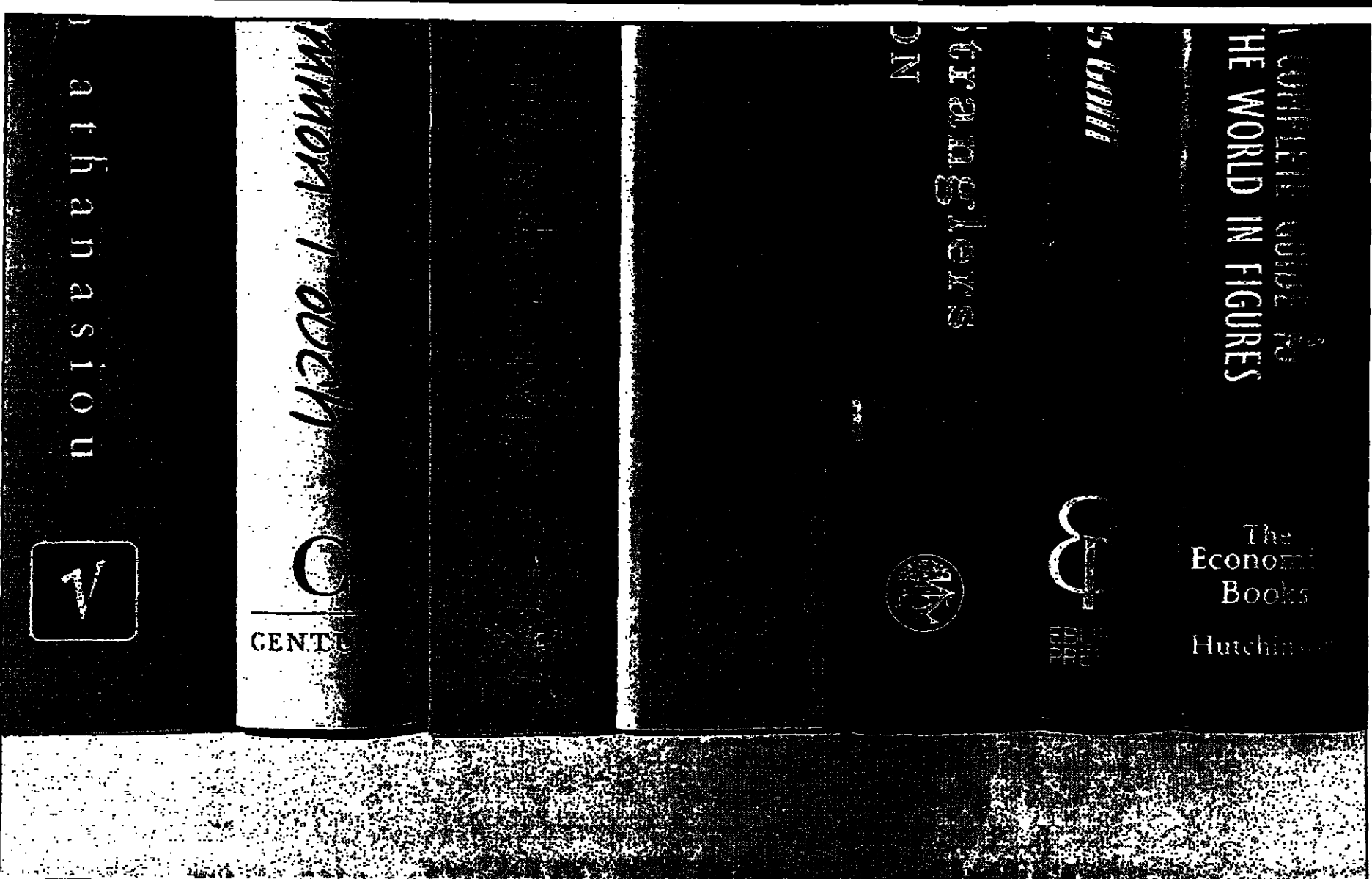
Mr Kiriyenko is an economic liberal and a protégé of Mr Nemtsov. But he may be a transitional figure. The old standard-bearer of Russian liberals, Grigory Yavlinsky, flew to Moscow last night saying that he had been "invited" and that he might head a new government.

The dismissal of Mr Chernomyrdin, whom Mr Yavlinsky regarded as a corrupt energy baron, was one of Mr Yavlinsky's previous conditions for entering the government.

The Kremlin was talking up Mr Kiriyenko's chances last night, but his youth and inexperience may count against him. Pragmatic regional leaders such as Yegor Stroyev, Konstantin Titov and Dmitri Ayatskov are likely alternatives.

The trouble with Boris, page 5; Leader comment, page 5; Notebook, page 12

Huge new group dominates English-language publishing



Random House British and US imprints to be merged with those of the German media group Bertelsmann, creating the biggest publishing group in the English-speaking world

German giant swallows Random House

Random facts

- Random House was founded in 1925.
- Random House is the largest publisher of books in English.
- Random House has published more than 100,000 titles.
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Ian Traynor in Bonn and Giles Foden

THE German media company Bertelsmann, Europe's biggest media and publishing conglomerate, yesterday moved to dominate the English-speaking world of books by announcing it was taking over Random House.

New Zealand subsidiaries and markets as the biggest publishing group in the English-speaking world. "Our engagement today affirms that Bertelsmann firmly believes in the promising future of the book," Mark Wösemann, the head of Bertelsmann, said in announcing the takeover in Munich. "Expanding our English-language book publishing activities has been an increasing strategic priority."

The parties refused to divulge financial details of the acquisition, and referred it to the US regulatory authorities for approval. Bertelsmann said it expected the takeover to be sealed by the summer.

Through BDD and its UK subsidiary Transworld, Bertelsmann already publishes bestselling authors including John Grisham and Danielle Steele. Recent British commercial triumphs have been Nicholas Evans's *The Horse Whisperer* and Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Small Island*. Random House has a turnover of about \$1 billion (£600 million). The merger should raise publishing turnover in the US alone to about \$1 billion. Bertelsmann executives said.

The German and US markets will each furnish 35 per cent of Bertelsmann's global sales volume, Mr Wösemann said. Mr Wösemann, aged 59, a Berliner whose empire is based in Göttersloh in north-western Germany, is not liked by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and is seen as a powerful media ally of Mr Kohl's Social Democratic turn to page 2, column 2

Blair 'helped Murdoch media bid'

Italian paper says PM intervened with his counterpart in Rome

Michael White and John Cooper in Rome

TONY Blair's relationship with Rupert Murdoch was again under scrutiny last night after claims in the Italian media that the Prime Minister had intervened with Romano Prodi, his centre-left counterpart in Rome, to help Mr Murdoch's bid for the Berlusconi media empire.

Downing Street confirmed that Mr Blair did speak with Mr Prodi, at the latter's invitation, last Wednesday, but would not confirm or deny claims in the Turin-based centre-right *La Stampa* newspaper that they had discussed Mr Murdoch's twice-thwarted bid for Mediaset, the holding

company controlled by the media magnate-cum-politician Silvio Berlusconi. "I have no reason to believe the call was to do with Mr Murdoch," a Downing Street spokesman told reporters amid speculation on both sides of the Atlantic about the Australian tycoon's efforts to buy a bigger stake in non-English language media markets in Europe.

Without citing sources, *La Stampa's* stock market specialist, Ugo Bertone, described Mr Blair as "Murdoch's sponsor" in the deal. Mr Bertone said he had received confirmation from London. Among obvious alternative reasons for Mr Prodi's call, some Italian observers suggested last night, were rou-

tine issues arising from the British EU presidency or details of mergers between British and Italian defence and aerospace interests — part of the Europe-wide consolidation in which GEC and BAE are key players. Three years ago Mr Murdoch failed to buy a controlling interest in Mediaset which would have given him up to 50 per cent of Italian TV advertising revenue and relieved Mr Berlusconi of the "conflict of interest" which dogged his brief premiership.

A renewed Murdoch courtship ended on Friday when Mr Berlusconi said that family pressures — "heart reasons" — had prevailed, though the offered price for Mediaset was also reported to be a factor. The two tycoons met again in London on Saturday, raising speculation that more was afoot. But their talks may have concerned unrelated

matters, such as digital TV distribution. Mr Blair has laid great store in keeping Mr Murdoch on side with New Labour, although he faces pressure from some MPs and peers in all parties to curb his power, through tighter controls on predatory pricing and media cross-ownership. The Italian prime minister's office was yesterday offering no comment on the report. The fate of Mr Berlusconi's media holdings is an intensely political issue in Italy. Though he has sold off much of his stake in the Mediaset TV and advertising group, the leader of the rightwing opposition still has a 50.6 per cent interest. Mediaset runs all three of the country's biggest commercial channels. A spokeswoman for News International said the company would not be making any comment on the reports.

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QUALITY IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE



—prosecutor Andrew Campbell-Tiech

Remains found buried at artist's family estate



Examples of the work of sculptor Anthony-Noel Kelly

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Stuart Miller

AN ARTIST and a lab technician stole human body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons in an "exceptional, unusual and macabre" plot to make moulds for sculptures, a court heard yesterday.

Anthony-Noel Kelly, aged 42, paid Niel Lindsay, 28, an employee of the college, to help him smuggle out the remains under the cover of night wrapped in black binliners and placed in a rucksack.

Aware that he was likely to be investigated by the police

after some of his work was exhibited in Islington, north London, last year, Mr Kelly buried some of the remains in the grounds of his family's estate in Kent.

They included a human head and torso, a second head, various limbs and other remains, all of which had partially rotted by the time police dug them up.

Four feet and a similar number of hands and arms were among another grisly consignment concealed — *some* in a plastic container — in the basement of a flat belonging to a female friend. She had no knowledge of what had been hidden, the court was told.

Andrew Campbell-Tiech, prosecuting, told the jury of 10 women and two men that when Mr Kelly and Mr Lindsay were arrested in April last year, they mounted a "barrage of criticism" on the college's procedures for handling human remains. They accused the college of keeping body parts beyond the legal limit when it is obliged to have them buried or cremated.

the fund's agreement with the college did not extend to human remains.

The court heard that Mr Lindsay had begun working for the college in 1991 as a laboratory aide, before being promoted to trainee lab technician in 1993.

In 1993, he had struck up a friendship with Mr Kelly who had requested and been granted permission to visit the college to sketch and draw body parts. Mr Campbell told the court such a request was not unusual.

"But Mr Kelly was not satisfied with simply having access to the material. He wanted to cast, to make a mould of any particular item, any particular part of a dead body, and he said that would create an exact copy, a sculpture."

"The Royal College of Surgeons would never have permitted him to do this. Niel Lindsay said."

Mr Lindsay paid Niel Lindsay around £400 in return for his services.

The court heard the police in-

postman was only six years old when, RMU suspect of another case, Laurence Martin, who regulates the handling of human remains in teaching hospitals and medical schools, saw a photograph of Mr Kelly with one of his pieces in a Sunday newspaper.

Mr Kelly died immediately that the particular work of art photographed could only have been cast from part of a dead body, and not merely a part of a dead body but a protected or dissected part of a dead body," said Mr Campbell-Titch.

At first, Mr Kelly told police that he had obtained the body parts alone. He also said that he had buried all the remains in the grounds of his family home, Redwood Road, in Brixton.

But officers found one of his diaries which revealed the involvement of Mr Lindsey and the concealment of more remains in the friend's flat in Brixton, south London.

Mr Kelly also admitted that college employees had disposed of a set of femurs - thighbones with some flesh

still attached -- in the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's incinerator.

Peter Thornton QC, for Mr Lindsay, claimed the disposal of the femurs had breached the strict rules governing the disposal of body parts. Cross-examining Brian Eaton, the college's senior research manager, Mr Thornton said the female employee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund who had discovered the femurs in the incinerator had been sent a box of chocolates by a senior member of the college's staff in an attempt to placate her.

But Mr Eaton, who had been Mr Lindsay's immediate boss, denied the rules had been broken. He agreed chocolate was a common gift but said he was not prepared to say they were there to apologise for the woman's distress.

Mr Kelly and Mr Lindsay both deny stealing human anatomical specimens from the college between June 1991 and January 1994. Mr Lindsay has also pleaded not guilty to handling stolen goods.

The case continues.

Poor students put off by tuition fees

Experiment in lifting Budget secrecy hailed as a success

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

KEY parts of last week's Budget were tested out on specially chosen focus groups in an initiative designed to iron out any problems before they were included in Gordon Brown's package of measures, the Treasury has disclosed.

Outside consultants were called in for the first time to "road test" the two biggest tax changes — the Working Families Tax Credit and Individual Savings Accounts — after criticisms of the original plans.

Despite reservations from some senior mandarins about the need to ensure confidentiality, the initiative was part of a wider plan to remove the veil of secrecy from the Budget-making process and open it up to wider consultation.

Treasury sources last night hailed the experiment as a success, adding that the focus groups were used only towards the end of the four-month Budget process to monitor the views of the public.

While the Treasury has used management consultants to help with organisational change in Whitehall's most powerful department, until this year it had never

used outside bodies as part of the Budget process. However, sources said the market testing had helped to confirm that the serious design problems with both the Working Party and the Treasury's use of the ISAs had been ironed out.

"I'm not sure that they told us very much that we didn't already know," said one official. But this is all part of the move to make the Budget process more open and transparent. In the old days the Treasury sought to spring surprises on the public and the market, rather than make sure that we get changes right."

The experiment with the focus groups looks set to form a part of the Budget process, now that it has been decided that the spring Budget should be preceded by a

consultative pre-Budget report in the autumn.

Plans for the Working Families Tax Credit and ISAs were floated in the November 1987 pre-Budget report, but the Finance Bill was delayed during the consultation period.

On the tax credit, the Treasury wanted to ensure that it had not been misunderstood. It fears that the American-style tax break for the working poor would enjoy higher take-up than the benefit it replaced — family credit — and would not be a siphon of money from women to men.

The original plan for ISAs proved to be even more contentious, with criticism that the scheme would not generate the time savings would be unfair to those who had built up a nest-egg in FRPs and Tessa.

Donald MacLeod

ONE in eight sixth-formers from working-class backgrounds say they cannot afford to go to university because of rising costs and the abolition of grants, a survey for the Guardian and the university admissions service reveals today.

At the same time, the Department for Education and Employment will today publish figures showing applications for university places by 18- and 21-year-olds have increased to 370,000, from 268,000 last year, despite last year's rush to beat fees. The rise in the number of 18-year-olds applying is even higher, at nearly 20,000 in England.

The first evidence that the Government's policy of introducing £1,000 tuition fees and axing maintenance grants is having a deterrent effect on a crucial minority of students comes from the Mori poll of 842 sixth-formers.

It also sheds doubt on whether ministers are succeeding in their stated message across to students from poor backgrounds who will not have to pay fees: 60 per cent of students questioned said they could not afford to go to university, on the subject from David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, or similar publicity from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

Students doing A levels, Highers and GNVQs in England, Scotland and Wales

They were questioned about their plans last May — before fees were announced — and again this February and March. While the majority said they would still go to college, a significant proportion who said they could not afford to do so rose, and among students from blue collar families the proportion who said they could not afford to do so rose, to 12 per cent.

There was also a steep increase in the number who said they would study at home, from 10 to 25 per cent. One in four now wants to live in four. Asked about the introduction of fees, 57 per cent said they were worried and half said they would not take a job while studying. Five per cent said they could no longer afford to go.

into higher education, possibly reflecting ignorance that fees will be meant-tested and the poorest third will not pay them.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Education Group, said the group to show a fall in applications was mature students, as they had in Australia when fees were over \$1000 a year. Some universities could not afford to cut fees until the summer when candidates had to make up their minds about further study.

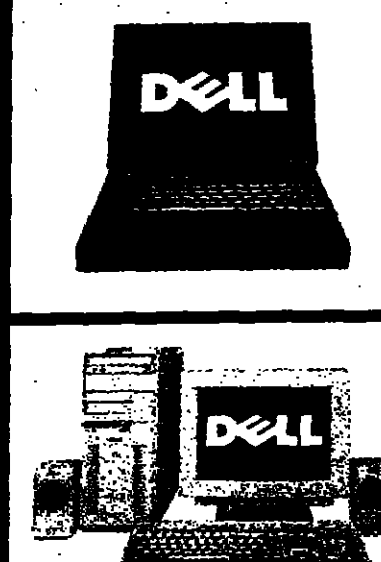
A government source said the dip in mature entrants might reflect a recovery in the labour market and the fact that a much higher proportion of school leavers now went to university so there was a smaller pool of unsatisfied demand.

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4 BRITAIN

Burden of proof to be lowered and right to silence axed in shake-up of discipline procedures
Corrupt police face quick dismissal

Sarah Hall

CORRUPT police officers could be ousted within six weeks under a fast-track process in a radical shake-up of complaints and discipline procedures unveiled yesterday.

The burden of proof at disciplinary hearings will be lowered from the criminal to the civil standard — ensuring it is easier for crooked officers to be found guilty.

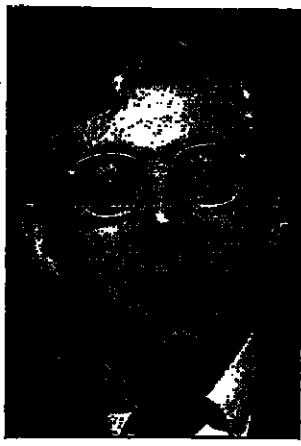
The double jeopardy rule — whereby officers acquitted at a criminal trial automatically escape a disciplinary hearing — will be abolished, as will the means of evading disciplinary action by "going sick". Officers claiming to be too ill to attend hearings will be dealt with in their absence. "In practice, it will mean they

become miraculously present," said the Home Secretary, Jack Straw.

The reforms, which come into force from next April, follow a five-year consultation and come less than two months after the latest instance of alleged police corruption centring on 12 Metropolitan police officers suspended in January following a series of raids.

They also come in the wake of claims by Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan police commissioner, that there could be 250 dishonest officers in his force. And they follow the assertion by West Midlands chief constable, Ted Crew, that officers who "would be employed by Sainsbury's" escape dismissal.

Among the measures will be new powers to allow chief constables to sack the worst officers in six weeks, instead



'I don't believe it's right for these officers to go on drawing on pensions even while they're in prison'

Jack Straw (left)

of having to go through disciplinary hearings that can last a year.

The shake-up, which goes some way in following the "compelling case for change"

outlined in the Commons home affairs committee's report, also brings an end to an officer's right to silence in disciplinary hearings, but allows them to retain lawyers

Rules for reform

- A reduction in the standard of proof in disciplinary hearings from the criminal trial standard of "beyond reasonable doubt" to the "balance of probabilities" used in civil cases
- A "fast track" dismissal procedure to enable the worst officers to be sacked within six weeks, instead of after internal hearings which can drag on for a year
- An end to the "double jeopardy" which means officers cleared of charges in a criminal court cannot

- then face a disciplinary hearing on the same matter
- An end to officers' right to silence during disciplinary hearings
- Rules to stop officers charged with disciplinary offences evading action by retreating sick
- The Home Secretary to assess automatically the right of an officer convicted of a criminal offence to a full pension. At present, police authorities apply in individual instances for pensions to be forfeited

state share of their pension — constituting three-quarters of it — withheld.

"I don't believe it's right for these officers to go on drawing on pensions at the public expense even while they're in prison," said Mr Straw. "It is abhorrent that public money should be paid out to those very few officers who abuse their position of trust."

The complaints procedure also faces reform, with the Home Office considering whether an independent complaints investigation body could be established.

The Police Complaints Authority, or any independent review body, could also undertake investigations irrespective of whether there had been a complaint, when in the public interest. The prospect of independent investigative groups was also pointed to. The measures were warmly

welcomed by the Association of Chief Police Officers, whose members have lobbied for greater powers to tackle police malpractice to ensure "greater effectiveness, transparency and openness". The independent PCA also backed the moves, as did the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, although it voiced reservations about the decision to lower the standard of proof in disciplinary cases.

But the Police Federation, representing 126,000 officers up to the rank of chief inspector, said this move would "damage the confidence and morale of the service". "Officers investigating hard core criminals will think twice if their inquiries can result in allegations of impropriety being levelled against them," said Fred Broughton, its chairman.

BBC unleashes frills and spills for lottery show

Kamal Ahmed on a concept of TV fun causing concern in the Commons

THE catapult car worked perfectly. As did the human pin ball machine and the giant, silver safe which holds the fortunes of the show's contestants. But still it was not the happiest of days for the BBC.

Tony Wolfe explained how the mocked up racing car would fire the competitors with more force than a moon-bound rocket. And how the lift machines and the vats of gunk would bring a smile to audiences and an even bigger grin to executives who watch the BBC's struggling Saturday night ratings.

But the scratchcards question kept returning. "Yes, it is controversial," Mr Wolfe, the executive producer of the National Lottery Big Ticket Show, admitted. "But at no point in the show do I promote the scratchcard. I am absolutely governed by the BBC guidelines, I can assure you that they are not breached."

Parliament again signalled its displeasure at the show which has been accused of being a big advert for Camelot. Gerald Kaufman, the chairman of culture select committee, has now secured a special House of

Commons debate on the issue tomorrow. The Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, will again be asked to take action.

Mr Kaufman has accused the BBC of promoting the sale of lottery scratchcards which the public has to buy to have a chance of appearing on the programme and winning a prize. He is supported by shadow culture secretary Francis Maude.

Yesterday the BBC hit back at its critics. In a letter to Mr Smith, BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland said it had acted within rules agreed by Parliament and the lottery regulator, Ofcom.

Mr Smith, who asked for a "convincing and compelling" response from the BBC over the allegations, will give his opinion on the matter tomorrow.

At yesterday's programme launch, one of the presenters, Anthea Turner, revealed that the BBC had banned any pictures of her with the scratchcard which is closely linked to the programme.

Critics say it is only by scratching off three stars on the £2 card that viewers can appear and have the chance to win the £100,000 top prize.

Ms Turner, who will present the show with Patrick Kielty, said she would only mention the scratchcard for information rather than promotion. She said she will not mention Camelot, the lottery operator.

The programme gets its first airing on Saturday.



Models display designs by David Robert Wales backstage at the Alternative Fashion Week, which features the work of 50 young designers in clothing, textiles and jewellery, as well as live music. It runs until Friday at Old Spitalfields Market in the East End of London

Power struggle at soccer club

Peter Hetherington

THE family firm which has effectively controlled Newcastle United for most of the last 10 years was fighting to retain its dominance last night in the face of opposition from non-executive directors of the company which owns the club.

After 10 hours of talks at St James's Park, to discuss the scandal engulfing the club over the past week, it emerged that a plan to install Sir John Hall as chairman for a second term was facing trouble.

'They may choose or not choose to resign. However I have the image of Newcastle United to protect.'

Sir John, the multi-millionaire property developer behind the revival of Newcastle United in the mid-1990s, is willing to return — after retiring as club chairman last December — to retain the club's credibility in the City of London.

He handed over control of his family's 67 per cent stake to his son, Douglas, while the chairmanship went to Freddie Shepherd — the two men at the centre of the sleaze allegations.

But sources last night indicated that Sir Terence Harrison, chairman of Newcastle United plc, made it known at a board meeting yesterday — in advance of half-yearly

results due this morning — that he was against Sir John returning.

Douglas Hall and Mr Shepherd stayed away from yesterday's meeting. But Mr Shepherd sent a lawyer to St James's Park, who waited outside the meeting.

But the three non-executive directors of the company — Sir Terence, John Mayo and Denis Cassidy — were still pressing for the resignation of Douglas Hall and Mr Shepherd, apparently because the company needed a fresh start.

Yesterday the club was plunged into further turmoil when the Labour MP for Newcastle Central, Jim Cousins, asked police to investigate drug allegations outlined earlier this week in several newspapers. They did not involve Mr Shepherd.

The MP contacted Alan Brown, deputy chief constable of Northumbria, to outline his concerns. Mr Cousins said: "Allegations were made about several premises, including bars in my constituency, where hard drugs, including cocaine, had allegedly been taken, and clearly this could raise serious issues." Police said that they would be investigating.

If Douglas Hall and Mr Shepherd do not stand down, it is clear that the crisis will deepen. Sir Terence said yesterday he had spoken to both men over the past few days.

"They may choose or not choose to resign. We have no powers to remove them. However I say the situation will be resolved in the next 48 hours. I have the image of Newcastle United to protect." A statement would be made this morning when the half-yearly results, believed to be under £10 million, are produced.

Black groups condemn tactics of lawyers for Lawrence family

Objection to head of inquiry was 'naïve and could damage family'

Sally Pook

LAWYERS for the family of Stephen Lawrence were yesterday criticised by black campaigners for halting the inquiry into the teenager's murder over allegations that the chairman, Sir William Macpherson, was racially insensitive.

Lee Jasper, chairman of the National Black Alliance, a group representing 14 black organisations, said that any objections to Sir William should have been raised with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, before the inquiry opened. The alliance fears the tactic could be damaging for the family.

The lawyers' tactics "did not result in the removal of the judge. They merely invited the potential for the judge to become hostile. Trying to overturn the decision at that stage was naïve — an unachievable goal."

"I would not have advised the Lawrence family to make

any objections about the judge on the first day unless they knew it was going to result in his removal."

The move provoked an angry editorial in the black newspaper New Nation, which yesterday condemned the move as a "stunt" and questioned the motives of the Lawrence's legal team.

The public inquiry was halted within minutes of its opening last Monday after counsel for the family demanded to see the Home Secretary.

Michael Mansfield, their QC, said the move was triggered in part by an article in the Observer accusing Sir William, a retired High Court judge, of being insensitive to race issues.

The judge dismissed the allegations "with contempt" and Mr Straw issued a statement saying he had complete confidence in his ability to handle the inquiry. Senior government sources said there was no question of the chairman being replaced.



Stephen Lawrence: stabbed to death in racist attack

Simon de Banya, who until a month ago was spokesman for the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign, said: "At the outset, Neville and Dorcas Lawrence, their solicitor, Imran Khan, and myself met the Home Secretary and expressed our dissatisfaction with the choice of Sir William. That was some months ago. "Mr Straw made it very clear he was not going to change his mind. I have no idea why they chose to raise the issue again on the first day of inquiry."

Marc Wadsworth, of the Anti Racist Alliance, described the opening of the public inquiry as a public relations disaster. "I have grave doubts for the future of the broad alliance of supporters who have been crucial to the success of this case if lawyers are allowed to go in for public relations disasters like this. A false start was the last thing they needed."

Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, told one newspaper the tactic could be interpreted by some as "posturing". But Peter Herbert, of the Society of Black Lawyers, said the Lawrence's legal team had no choice. "There is nothing else they could have done but to raise it on the first day."

Azmi Hakeem, for Stephen's parents, said: "They feel everything that needed to be said on this matter was said by them last week. Now they feel it is time to focus on the real subject of the inquiry."

The inquiry into the murder of Stephen, who was stabbed to death in a racist attack by white youths in Edinham, south-east London, in 1993, reopens today.

Man cleared of sex crime sent back to jail for reassessment

Emily Sheffield

A CONVICTED killer and sex offender was back in prison yesterday despite being cleared of indecent assault on a 12-year-old girl.

Robert Sexton, aged 43, who served 17 years of a life sentence for the manslaughter of a teenager in Cumbria, was found not guilty at Cambridge crown court on Friday of the indecent assault.

But he was sent back to Bedford prison to face a discretionary panel which will decide whether he will remain in prison, even though he has committed no additional offence.

The Home Office can put lifters released on licence back behind bars if it is feared they will commit another crime.

Sexton, from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, had denied indecently assaulting the girl in the bedroom of her home while her parents were out.

It had been alleged that Sexton, a photographer, had gone to the girl's house near Cambridge last summer and asked her to pose with only a see-through shirt on and no bra.

Karim Khalil, defending, conceded that Sexton had been "stupid and foolhardy to

go to the girl's bedroom", but said that he was not a criminal.

Sexton was also convicted in 1971 of indecently assaulting a 15-year-old girl in a men's toilet.

On his release in 1994, Sexton went to work for the Olan Mills Portrait Studio in Bedford where he met the 12-year-old after she began talking to Sexton about modelling, the court heard.

Sexton, who first returned to prison last September when the allegations were made against him, is likely to spend several months in prison there while a panel consisting of a judge, a psychiatrist and an independent member hear evidence on risk to society.

"The board can recall life sentences before they commit a crime," a Parole Board spokesman said yesterday.

"If the charge is dropped it doesn't mean the prisoner is automatically released. He has to go through a review to see the broader concerns which led him to be recalled. If he does not address the problems for the safety of the public the prisoner can be kept in prison until they have been resolved."

Brewer wins duty hearing

John Eazard

THE real ale brewer Shepherd Neame yesterday won the right to go to a crucial next stage in its challenge to Britain's 30p tax on a pint of beer. With the Prime Minister's wife, Cherie Booth QC, as its advocate, it was given leave to ask the Appeal Court to refer its case to the European Court of Justice.

It claims government duty — up to five times the rates in Europe — is in breach of European laws requiring states to harmonise duties.

Shepherd Neame's vice-chairman, Stuart Neame, said the 1p increase in last week's Budget made the case vital. It involved "the crucial principle of the Treaty of Rome precedence over a country's wish to increase duties".

G2 front

... (text cut off)

British claim six of first 10 places

Old stars shine on all-time top 100 pop list

Don Glatzer
Arts Correspondent

IT IS, said one music critic, depressing. A poll of 600 top musicians to determine the top 100 rock and pop artists is dominated by the dinosaurs of rock.

The first woman artist comes in at number 21, while the highest placed contemporary artist with any mass youth appeal is Michael Jackson at 40. The top 10 places are taken by artists who hit the big time in the sixties and seventies.

There is no place for recent pop phenomena such as Oasis or the Spice Girls, and even the serious rock of Radiohead, whose last album was recently acclaimed by readers of a rock magazine as the best of all time, is ignored.

Topping the list, predictably, are the Beatles. At number two come the Rolling Stones, followed by Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin and Bob Dylan. With David Bowie, The Who and, somewhat astonishingly, the Police also in the top 10 places, British acts take up six of them.

The poll will confirm the Beatles as the dominant force in the century's dominant music form. Already EMI, the group's record company, is preparing another marketing push for 2000. They are to be re-branded The Band of the Millennium, with the record label promising the release of new material.

The results of the poll, conducted by the music channel VH1, will be broadcast at the end of this month in the US and later in the UK. Artists who had appeared on the channel or whose videos had been played were asked to list their top 100 acts. The responses — from the likes of

the Bee Gees, Elvis Costello, Johnny Cash and George Harrison — produced votes for more than 700, whittled down to 100.

But the results belie the image of rock and roll as a challenging, innovative or relevant art form. Instead they place it firmly in the museum — or hall of fame.

Probably the only names on the list to have made any acknowledgment of contemporary musical fashions are David Bowie, who has flirted with drum and bass, and Madonna, at number 86, whose most recent album was recorded with a dance music producer.

It is a very AOR (Adult Oriented Rock) view of popular music. Only two jazz musicians feature on the list — Miles Davis and John Coltrane — and only one reggae musician, Bob Marley. And the impact of punk, which set out to destroy the legacy of earnest, learned rock music, is neatly illustrated by the position of the Sex Pistols between Crosby, Stills and Nash and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

Broadcaster John Peel, a champion of alternative forms of music, said of the list: "How depressing. This tells us that the people who contribute to these polls are a bunch of boring old twerps. It all sounds a bit joyless if you ask me."

VH1 vice-president Bill Flanagan said: "When you're doing a survey of musicians, they're not as hung up on historical importance as much as music critics are. If it were a music historians' poll I think Chuck Berry and other artists from the 1950s would have rated much higher."

"But musicians are also big music fans, and I think the survey results show who their biggest influences are."



Top of all the pops... The Beatles: John Lennon at the mike in the Cavern Club, Liverpool, in 1963. EMI is to promote them as Band of the Millennium



Pipped by the Beatles... The Rolling Stones in 1966

THE TOP 100

1. The Beatles
2. The Rolling Stones
3. Jimi Hendrix
4. Led Zeppelin
5. Bob Dylan
6. James Brown
7. David Bowie
8. Elvis Presley
9. The Who
10. The Police
11. Stevie Wonder
12. Ray Charles
13. The Beach Boys
14. Marvin Gaye
15. Eric Clapton
16. John Lennon
17. Elton John
18. Prince
19. Pink Floyd
20. The Doors
21. Aretha Franklin
22. Fleetwood Mac
23. The Eagles
24. Bob Marley
25. Van Morrison
26. Chuck Berry
27. Bruce Springsteen
28. Sly and The Family Stone
29. U2
30. Neil Young
31. The Clash
32. Joni Mitchell
33. Queen
34. Buddy Holly
35. Otis Redding
36. Little Richard
37. Al Green
38. Elvis Costello
39. Miles Davis
40. Michael Jackson
41. Janis Joplin
42. Nirvana
43. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
44. The Jackson Five
45. Crosby, Stills and Nash
46. Sam Cooke
47. Creedence Clearwater Revival
48. Van Halen
49. Roy Orbison
50. R.E.M.
51. BB King
52. Cream
53. Peter Dinklage
54. Grateful Dead
55. The Byrds
56. The Kinks
57. Steely Dan
58. Sam Cooke
59. Bo Diddley
60. Earth Wind and Fire
61. Smokey Robinson
62. Paul McCartney
63. Sittin'
64. Frank Zappa
65. James Taylor
66. Talking Heads
67. Kiss
68. The Allman Brothers
69. Pretenders
70. Stevie Ray Vaughan
71. Rod Stewart
72. Simon and Garfunkel
73. Muddy Waters
74. Velvet Underground
75. Curtis Mayfield
76. The Bee Gees
77. John Coltrane
78. Billy Joel
79. Aerosmith
80. Tina Turner
81. The Band
82. Devo
83. Iggy Pop
84. T Rex
85. Carole King
86. Madonna
87. Santana
88. Harmonie
89. John Cash
90. Tom Waits
91. Gladys Knight and The Pips
92. The Temptations
93. The Four Tops
94. Diana Ross and The Supremes
95. Robert Johnson
96. Lynyrd Skynyrd
97. Fats Domino
98. Traffic
99. Parliament/Funkadelic
100. Paul Simon



Number one woman... Aretha Franklin comes 21st on the list

Anger at disabled MP's increase

David Brindley, Social Services Correspondent

CAMPAIGNERS for the disabled are angry that the Commons has voted an increase of up to £20,000 in allowances of the disabled MP Anne Begg while ministers continue to question the benefits paid to other disabled people.

The campaigners are not challenging the MP's need for special help, but they say

there is a stark contrast between her treatment and that of millions of others who fear loss of their sickness and disability benefits.

Anne Begg, vice-chairwoman of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, said: "It feels like it's one rule for one person and another for the rest of us."

The increase in the allowances available to Ms Begg, Labour MP for Aberdeen South, was passed without comment by the few MPs

present shortly before close of business last Friday.

Ms Begg has Gaucher's disease, a genetic condition making her bones brittle, and has relied on a wheelchair for 18 years. She will be able to claim 33 per cent more than the standard MP's office costs allowance of £47,569 a year, and 83 per cent more than the additional costs allowance — in respect of a constituency home — of up to £12,287. In addition, she can claim for up to 36 return journeys to her constituency by an accompanying assistant.

A Cabinet Office spokeswoman said: "These are in recognition of extra costs faced by an MP with a disability. They are in line with arrangements for other disabled MPs."

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, can claim allowances 33 per cent higher than standard, on top of the basic MP's salary of £43,580 (£45,066 from next week). He has severe diabetes.

David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary,



MP Anne Begg: up to £20,000 more in disabled allowance

can claim allowances 157 per cent higher than standard — up to £154,000 — in respect of his blindness.

Ms Begg, a teacher, has been criticised for speaking out in support of the Government's assertion that disabled people should work if able to do so.

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World news in brief

Karen refugee camp in Thailand attacked

ABOUT 30 raiders from Burma attacked a refugee camp housing mainly Burmese Karens 24 miles inside Thailand yesterday, destroying 50 homes and wounding 14 people, according to an aid worker. Later four Thai soldiers were injured by mortar fire, apparently from the retreating raiders.

The Maw Ker camp houses more than 8,700 refugees. The raiders were said to be members of the Democratic Buddhist Karen Army (DBKA), which supports the Burmese military junta against the separatist Karen National Union, although a KNU spokesman said most of them were Burmese troops.

The Bangkok Post reported at the weekend that General Khin Nyunt, a senior member of the Burmese junta, had told the Thai commander in chief, Chetta Thanajaro, that Rangoon had nothing to do with the DBKA attacks and Thailand should do whatever was necessary to stop them. — AP, Bangkok.

Rwandan nuns abducted

TWO Spanish and five Rwandan nuns from the St Anne of Charity order have been abducted in Kivumu, north-west Rwanda, it is thought by Hutu rebels, the Church authorities said yesterday. — Reuters, Kigali.

Moldova snubs market

MOLDOVA's Communist Party was leading yesterday with almost 30 per cent of the votes cast in Sunday's general election, an indication that the electorate has rejected President Petru Lucinschi's hesitant market reforms. The Communists were expected to begin talks with nationalist and centrist parties on forming a coalition. — Reuters, Kishinev.

Serbs denounce Kosovo deal

THOUSANDS of Serbs marched through the Kosovo provincial capital Pristina yesterday in protest at an agreement between Serbian and ethnic Albanian leaders to let Albanians back into the state education system, from which they have been excluded for the past seven years.

"Today's signature represents the beginning of the sellout of Kosovo," the Serb dean of Pristina University said. "We will not allow separatist children to be rocked in a Serb cradle."

The agreement is the first concession by the Serb authorities in response to the international pressure on them to stop suppressing the Albanians. — Reuters, Pristina.

Mutilation campaign steps up

MORE than 180,000 women and girls in immigrant communities in the United States may have been, or may be liable to be, subjected to genital mutilation, according to a health department estimate.

The figures were produced for a New York state congresswoman, Louise Slaughter, on the basis of a statistical analysis by the government's centres for disease control and prevention. Female circumcision was banned in the US last year, but information on the prevalence of the practice is only beginning to be collected. — New York Times.

Seychelles sticks to René

PRESIDENT Albert René and his Seychelles People's Progressive Front have won the country's presidential and parliamentary elections, state television reported yesterday.

The opposition leader James Mancham, overthrown by Mr René in a 1977 military coup, polled less than 12 per cent to Mr René's 64 per cent, and his Democratic Party lost four of its five seats. Wavel Ramkalawan's United Opposition party won its first three seats. — Reuters, Victoria.

Try Clinton, say Iraqi MPs

THE Iraqi parliament branded President Bill Clinton and his predecessor George Bush war criminals yesterday and called for them to be tried for the suffering caused by the Gulf war and the UN sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. The resolution, was a response to a US Senate vote calling for President Saddam Hussein to be indicted. — Reuters, Baghdad.

Florida chair back in action

GERALD STANO, who confessed to 41 murders, was executed in Florida's electric chair yesterday, his first use since March 25 last year when flames were seen to shoot from behind the condemned man's face mask. That incident led to a series of attempts to have the chair banned as a cruel and unusual punishment. Three more are due to die in the coming week. — AP, Starke.

Centenarian's smashing time

A 104-YEAR-OLD Swede crossed red lights, smashed into parked cars and mounted a kerb during an outing in his 30-year-old car, Swedish papers reported yesterday, adding that he could be the oldest person ever to face driving charges. — Reuters, Stockholm.

Good vibrations



Carlos Mario Sosa Rosiles, a mentally handicapped two-year-old, closes his eyes as a dolphin called Venus nudges him gently during his first session of neuro-stimulating therapy in a dolphinarium at Mexico City zoo yesterday. The dolphins' high-frequency noises are said to stimulate children with motor neuron disabilities, autism and other mental handicaps. Some experts say the children are helped just by close contact with the dolphins. The doctor running the project says it has improved the children's co-ordination and confidence. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW WINNING

Caught on the fiddle

AN AUSTRIAN with a bout of wanderlust, who burgled a house to finance a dream holiday to South America, has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison for stealing a rare Stradivarius-style violin.

The unemployed 36-year-old from Linz did not realise he had stolen anything of note until he approached a Salzburg art dealer and offered to sell him his booty, including expensive bows and the 100-year-old violin, crafted by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume and valued at about \$80,000. — Kate Connolly, Prague.

Dirty money men clean up

NEW money is in such short supply in the central Indian city of Bhopal that people are wrapping ragged notes in plastic so they can be reused. Without the plastic, the old money might disintegrate as it changes hands.

Enterprising businessmen are buying up soiled notes at a discount elsewhere in the country — where not even beggars will accept them — and offloading them in Bhopal. — AP, New Delhi.

Yeltsin sacks his cabinet

Political script rewritten

Big money/Business tycoons have great clout behind scenes

James Meek in Moscow

THE only advance warning of Boris Yeltsin's bombshell came on Sunday, when the national television channel NTV screened a 25-minute interview with a powerful tycoon, Boris Berezovsky.

Mr Berezovsky, a billionaire with interests from oil to newspapers, made no direct mention of government changes, but his sudden return to Russia from Switzerland and his free-ranging comments on the 2000 presidential election campaign suggest he knew what was in the wind, and might even have helped provoke it.

President Yeltsin's usually well-informed press chief, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, was kept in the dark until the last moment. Ordinary Russians were baffled by the sudden sacking of such a familiar figure as Viktor Chernomyrdin, prime minister for most of the post-Soviet era.

"We thought Yeltsin was betting on stability," said Valentin Yemalov, a grocery wholesaler. "It's as if there's something behind it all which we know nothing about."

What seems to have happened is a classic strike by Mr Yeltsin in consultation with a tiny group of aides, setting the scene for a power struggle in which the dividing line between politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen such

as Mr Berezovsky becomes increasingly ill-defined. According to some version, the president, determined to secure the succession for himself or at least choose the candidate to be backed by Russia's oligarchic new capitalists, had been con-

vinced by co-operation with the authorities. Now the situation will alter radically. There will be a long struggle with the communist and nationalist-dominated parliament to get a new prime minister approved.

If Mr Yeltsin — as some suggest he planned all along — puts forward a candidate unacceptable to the Duma, he can dissolve parliament and call new elections. There is even a theory that he might defy the constitution and call early presidential elections.

The politician once seen as the president's heir apparent, the young liberal minister Boris Nemtsov, is in limbo, although having brought the acting prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, into the old government, he can expect a good job in the new one.

Other leading presidential contenders — Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov, former para-

troop general Alexander Lebed and communist chief Gennady Zyuganov — are little affected by the upheaval, though they will regret the demise of Mr Chernomyrdin, whom they will feel they could have beaten in an open fight.

The pervasive spectre of Mr Berezovsky and his ilk, weaving in and out of the corridors of power while advancing their business interests, is a sign of the role a handful of big bankers and industrialists will play in the coming battle.

Mr Berezovsky believes he and his associates bought victory for Mr Yeltsin in 1996 with their financial backing and that the candidate they choose in 2000 will fight off the communist-nationalist challenge just as easily. "It is in our interests," he said, "to ensure continuity of power."

The trouble with Boris, page 8; Leader comment, page 5

'We thought Yeltsin was betting on stability. It's as if there's something behind it all which we don't know'

cerned about Mr Chernomyrdin's increasing power. On Saturday, on the spur of the moment, he decided to act. He was isolated in the Gorky's sanatorium outside Moscow with the head of his administration, Valentin Yumashev, and his daughter, Tatiana Dyachenko, both of whom are close to Mr Berezovsky.

into his old job as head of the gas monopoly, Gazprom. "This is Yeltsin's traditional way of sending a message to the political establishment: don't bury me, I'm not dead yet," political analyst Lilia Shevtsova said.

Before yesterday, Russian politics had stagnated, with parliament weak and compro-

Fresh ideas sought as oil slump hits

Economy/Lack of presidential support may neuter radicals

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

THE Russian economic crisis which prompted President Yeltsin to dismiss his government yesterday was brought to a head by the recent collapse in world oil prices.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, proved surprisingly immune to economic Asian flu, but could not survive the declining value of oil and gas, which provide half Russia's hard currency earnings.

Because speculators have retreated from developing markets since Asia's economic crisis, the only short-term way for the Russian government to supplement its budget — issuing short-term bonds — has become more difficult and expensive.

"There just isn't enough liquidity in the economy to support the most basic government obligations," said Al Breach of the Russian-European Centre for Economic Policy.

"And because the rouble looks increasingly vulnerable, President Yeltsin really had

to make a radical change." But Mr Yeltsin said nothing yesterday to indicate that he could deliver a new government with new ideas. He has always avoided responsibility for economic policies and if, fearing loss of popularity, he again gives only rhetorical support to reform, the ministerial changes will be ineffective.

Figures released last week show that, far from diminishing, public sector wage arrears have increased by more than a fifth to 7,636 billion

roubles (\$750 million). In human terms, the figure confirms yesterday — a failure. His appointment of the two so-called "young reformers", Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, as deputy prime ministers did not bring economic improvements.

Mr Chubais's decision to an unspecified government role removes the IMF's favourite politician from the Kremlin. If Mr Nemtsov is also demoted, the government could be without a strong pro-Western reformer.

sive and energetic" team, proved — by his own admission yesterday — a failure. He is only 35 and has won a reputation for liberalism in regional government — but his political inexperience bodes ill for the expected struggle with parliament.

Although he is only a temporary figurehead, he will present Mr Yeltsin's new team to the communist-dominated Duma for its approval. The Duma will strongly resist the promotion of a reformist who threatens budget cuts.

The new acting prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, fits the young reformer image — he is only 35 and has won a reputation for liberalism in regional government — but his political inexperience bodes ill for the expected struggle with parliament.

Although he is only a temporary figurehead, he will present Mr Yeltsin's new team to the communist-dominated Duma for its approval. The Duma will strongly resist the promotion of a reformist who threatens budget cuts.

Despite the stormy political outlook, the markets reacted calmly.

Foreign policy priorities are unlikely to change. The foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, described himself as the "acting" minister, but said he expected to be reappointed soon.

President Yeltsin will take the limelight again on Thursday at a Moscow summit with President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, billed as the first in a series of "troika" summits.

Fired allies may be back for more

Strategy/A clear plan is behind what looks like a whim

James Meek in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN'S dismissal of his entire government yesterday was probably decided only at the weekend, smacks of the caprice which has cast doubt on his mental grip in recent months.

Coming immediately after his return to work from a latest bout of illness, it would be tempting to assume that the 67-year-old Russian president, worn out by heart bypass surgery and the cares of office, had taken to making arbitrary, tear-like gestures in an attempt to defy his failing health.

The truth is different. Although Mr Yeltsin looked old and slow on television, he was the same flawed but cunning leader he always was — with an instinctive sense of the need for reform, but no clear idea how to achieve it, a flair for political melodrama and a willingness to ditch old favourites to leave himself a clear field.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, is only the latest in a long line of allies to be cast aside. Former prime minister Yegor Gaidar, close friend and bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov, and the former general who brought him victory in the 1996 elections,

Alexander Lebed, were all dumped when they became too unpopular or too powerful.

It is a measure of the success — in personal terms — of Mr Yeltsin's leadership style that many of those he roughly ejects from government later return as loyal servants. The privatisation guru Anatoly Chubais, who was dismissed by the president in 1995, returned humbly a year later. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin fired him again.

Applying what he described yesterday as "a natural process in the renewal of power", Mr Yeltsin brings fresh faces into the government, allows them to take the blame for policy failures that are often the result of his reluctance to take risks, then presents himself as a popular avenger by sacking them.

Although Mr Yeltsin sugared the dismissal of his government with talk of the need to make economic reform work, he was candid about what was really on his mind: presidential elections in 2000, when he may stand for a third term, despite doubts about his constitutional eligibility.

In effect, he was telling Russians that he was subordinating the work of the government to the task of getting himself or his chosen successor elected.

"The elections in 2000 are very important for us," he said on television. "This is the future of Russia." He could have said the future of Boris Yeltsin, but it is not clear whether he distinguishes between the two.



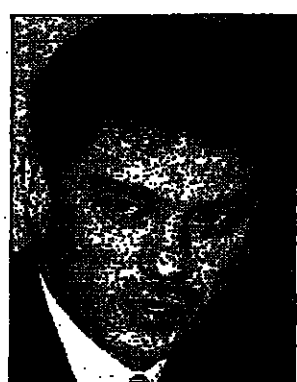
Kiriyenko: Respected by all, but without political clout



Chernomyrdin: Did deals where Yeltsin failed



Chubais: Radical hated by opposition for privatisation



Nemtsov: Outspoken attacks on 'oligarchic capitalists'

Technocrat for a temporary fix

Power players/Many are waiting in the wings for a chance to star in the main role

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

THE acting Russian prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, aged 35, talks, thinks and dresses like the earnest engineering graduate he is. In his previous role as deputy minister for energy and fuel, he bored journalists with endless figures, but won a reputation as a pragmatic reformer by frankly listing and addressing his ministry's problems.

President Boris Yeltsin's appointment of the bespectacled provincial former oil executive as stop-gap prime minister is astute. An uncontroversial technocrat, Mr Kiriyenko is respected across Russia's political spectrum, after a steady performance in government. On a recent trip to a Siberian mining region, he won plaudits from both

reformists and conservatives by saying the government should be responsible for the social needs of miners.

Because he lacks the clout to tame the Communist-dominated lower house of parliament, the Duma, he is likely to be replaced quickly by a more authoritative figure. But his appointment, however temporary, is a boost to his career and may indicate the new government's likely character and position.

It was Boris Nemtsov, the previous cabinet's deputy prime minister, who invited the radical team that President Yeltsin started out with. Hated by the opposition for allegedly rigging privatisation in favour of his banker friends, the burly redhead, aged 42, is the favourite to take over as head of Russia's monopoly electricity distributor.

Victor Chernomyrdin: The ousted prime minister and main protector of the gas and oil lobby was the president's stolidly unexciting but trusty

lieutenant for five years. Yet, as his tacking of a Chechen hostage crisis showed, he was capable of doing deals where Mr Yeltsin could not.

For a long time Mr Chernomyrdin was the linchpin between the government and the Duma, dominated by Communists and nationalists. But after his dismissal yesterday, his political career could be finished. He has little natural vote-pulling power and the oil and gas lobby that has made him a millionaire might choose other people to back for the presidential race in 2000.

Anatoly Chubais: The former deputy prime minister is a feisty survivor, for long the only surviving member of the radical team that President Yeltsin started out with. Hated by the opposition for allegedly rigging privatisation in favour of his banker friends, the burly redhead, aged 42, is the favourite to take over as head of Russia's monopoly electricity distributor.

Boris Nemtsov: The fate of

the "young reformer", aged 37, whom Mr Yeltsin brought into government only a year ago, is unclear. His outspoken attacks on "oligarchic capitalists" allegedly pulled the Kremlin strings that have angered big business. But Mr Nemtsov has never criticised President Yeltsin and claims to have an agreement with him to stay in office for at least another year — an outsider for the job of prime minister.

Yuri Luzhkov and Alexander Lebed: Among the front-runners in the battle to succeed President Yeltsin in two years' time. Moscow's mayor and the former national security adviser are both above the fray and biding their time.

Mr Lebed hopes his bid next month for the governorship of a Siberian region will lead to the Kremlin. Mr Luzhkov strenuously disclaims presidential ambitions, on what resemble campaign visits to Russia's regions, where he dispenses largesse and bangs the nationalist drum.

Dr. V. I. S. S.

Le Pen fails in Marseille

Paul Webster in Paris

AN ATTEMPT by Jean-Marie Le Pen to seize control of the Marseille region for the racist National Front failed yesterday as a national outcry at the dangers of extremism tore right-wing parties apart.

Jacques Chirac went on television to appeal to conservatives to rally around the presidency. The Gaullist head of state wants to create a new movement to oppose right-wing extremism and provide a balance to the increasingly powerful Socialist-led administration.

Mr Le Pen persuaded five right-wing leaders to ally with the National Front in other regional elections last week, giving his movement its first real taste of shared power. He demanded a reciprocal gesture from the Gaullists and the centre-right to enable him to govern the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur assembly in Marseille.

But public outrage and presidential anger at extremist pacts with the nationalists obliged conservatives to drop their original plan to back Mr Le Pen, hours before the Marseille assembly met.

A Socialist former foreign minister, Michel Vauzelle, was elected chairman. In

Socialists take key regional chairmanships as Chirac opens fight to wrest conservatism back from the National Front

the Ile de France assembly covering Paris, another Socialist, Jean-Paul Huchon, was set to win after Gaullist councillors refused National Front support.

The voting took place against the background of street protests organised by students and human rights organisations.

In Toulouse, the outgoing Midi-Pyrénées regional president, Marc Cens, was re-elected with National Front backing but immediately resigned. He was the second leader of the Union for French Democracy (UDF) to refuse a deal. Five provincial leaders have been expelled for accepting deals.

The Gaullist mayor of Le Havre, Antoine Rufenacht, outgoing chairman in Haute-Normandie, dropped out of the race for chairman be-

cause the National Front was in a position to arbitrate.

In the overseas region of La Réunion, a Communist, Paul Vergès, twin brother of the lawyer Jacques Vergès, was elected chairman.

A rethink on the right was inevitable in the wake of the departmental (county council) elections on Sunday, in which the left took more than 400 seats and 11 councils from the right as voters withdrew their support from the Gaullists and the centre-right UDF. The left now controls 31 county councils, the right 62.

Summing up a week of crisis in the right-wing parties, the former foreign minister Hervé de Charette said the alliances made with Mr Le Pen's followers were as important as the May 1968 student riots and François Mitterrand's presidential victory in 1981.

"It is the ruin of the French right," he added. "Perhaps we'll soon know who are the authors of this sinister plot prepared over a long period. Those who have saved their seats by joining with the National Front have done it by sacrificing the republic."

Prominent conservatives poured contempt on leaders who accepted the National Front's conditions, describing them as traitors.

In Lyon, Raymond Barre, the city's mayor and a former prime minister, attacked his political ally Charles Millon, a former defence minister, saying he had created an "unhealthy climate" by accepting an extremist deal to serve his seat as president of the Rhône-Alpes region.

Gaullist MPs blamed the former secretary-general Jean-François Mancel, who started the revolt, for the loss of scores of county council seats. But yesterday he said that it was crucial to start talking with Mr Le Pen about his anti-immigration plans.

The press was nearly unanimous in condemning the rise of the National Front. Only the right-wing Figaro, reflecting the views of its letter pages, played down the crisis, calling it a "nervous breakdown" caused by a sudden awareness that the National Front played a key role in French politics.



A worker from Warsaw's Ursus tractor factory burns an EU flag in front of the finance ministry during protests last week. PHOTOGRAPH: LESZEK WOJNICKI

Angry Poles prepare to confront EU

Financial concerns are destroying Euro-euphoria as accession talks approach, writes Neil Bowdler in Wysokie Mazowieckie

ALl the European Union has brought Dariusz Sapinski so far is losses.

He is the manager of Poland's biggest dairy, Mlekovita, which was doing good business exporting powdered milk to German wholesalers in Brussels. But when the EU introduced a blanket ban on Polish milk imports after EU inspectors ruled that the country's dairies posed a health hazard.

Mr Sapinski, who had invested \$13 million in EU-manufactured machinery in an attempt to improve hygiene standards, is fuming at the blow he believes the ban has dealt to his company's image.

"The prestige of Polish

producers has fallen across the world. Our reputation's been destroyed for no reason," he shouts.

As for Poland's future membership of Europe's rich man's club, he is increasingly cynical: "We're offering them the country on a plate," he says. "Foreign companies are buying up the best part of Poland."

Mr Sapinski's mood is relatively bright compared with the sullen atmosphere in surrounding villages. Many young people from this eastern region have moved into cities and towns in search of work. For those who remain, the EU has become a synonym for a new capitalist order which has brought falling

living standards and lengthening queue lines.

Farmers are also suffering. Two thousand of them took to the streets of Warsaw early this month with banners declaring that Poland's EU membership would be achieved literally "over our dead bodies".

Last week workers at Warsaw's troubled Ursus tractor factory burnt EU flags and tractor tyres outside the Polish finance ministry. "The European Union wants to liquidate 90 per cent of our agriculture," screamed the workers' leader, Zygmunt Wrzodak.

Growing unrest among farmers, who make up a quarter of Poland's workforce, has put pressure on

the Solidarity-led government as it prepares for the start of accession talks in Brussels next Tuesday.

Euro-euphoria has given way to escalating fears about the economic and social costs of membership. A recent survey showed that 55 per cent of Poles believe their country will be only a "weak, second-category member".

Wary of a public backlash, the government is charging into the negotiations promising not to capitulate to Brussels. It has rejected attempts to impose a long "transition period" on Polish farmers which would make them ineligible for funding from a reformed Common Agricultural Policy after accession.

Much to the alarm of Germany and Austria, which fear a flood of migrant workers, Polish nego-

tiators have said the right of Poles to work abroad immediately after accession is a key objective.

"If we're made subject to lengthy transition periods, we'll be nothing less than a poor cousin with its hand out, pleading for help," says Jan Kulakowski, Poland's chief negotiator.

Such public pronouncements are unwelcome to the European Commission, which will broker negotiations with EU applicants. It has its hands full persuading present EU members to forgo regional aid and agricultural price supports to facilitate expansion. With nearly five million Germans out of work, demands for free labour movement serve only to "raise the temperature in EU countries", says Rolf Tilmans, the commission's ambassador in Warsaw.



Socialist Michel Vauzelle, elected chairman of the region based on Marseille, is congratulated by the justice minister, Elizabeth Guigou. PHOTOGRAPH: BORIS HORVAT

Riot over Kenyan ad for rich students

Lucy Hannan in Nairobi

POLICE armed with live ammunition and tear-gas were forced to retreat by stone-throwing university students in running battles in central Nairobi that lasted all day yesterday.

Witnesses said a policeman was critically injured when he was hit in the head by a stone thrown by students who went on the rampage outside the downtown campus of the University of Nairobi. Three more police were seriously injured and two were slightly hurt when they tried to break up rioters.

Using slingshots to keep paramilitary and riot police off the campus, students burned cars and smashed shop windows. Government radio announced that the university was closed in the afternoon.

The riots followed an advertisement in the popular Daily Nation which offered degrees in medicine and health "for privately sponsored students" with minimal educational requirements.

Students say university places are being sold off by a corrupt administration — the advert comes soon after a recently exposed scandal involving the sale of university degree certificates.

Africa reaches out for Clinton

Steve Holland in Accra

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton arrived in Africa to a tumultuous reception yesterday but at one stage the crowds came almost too close for comfort.

Mr Clinton, who began his tour of six African states in Ghana, delivered his keynote speech in the capital's Independence Square and walked to meet some of the estimated crowd of 250,000 well-wishers.

Wearing a dark suit, he was also struggling to cope with the unfamiliar tropical heat and humidity at the start of what will be his longest trip as president.

A teeming crowd of Ghanaians clamoured to shake his hand and surge forward — almost knocking over metal security barriers and sending a flutter through White House security.

Looking in danger of being overwhelmed, the US president with a look of consternation on his face waved his arm and cried: "Back up."

Mr Clinton, who was accompanied by his wife Hillary, was to spend less than

10 hours in Ghana. He flies on to Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and the former French colony of Senegal.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said later that Mr Clinton had appealed to the crowd for restraint "because he saw people in the front that were getting squeezed and he was trying to get people to back off a bit".

The crowd on the sprawling square situated on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea was so big that Ghanaian security had to work hard to control it.

Earlier, police used clubs and belts to clear crowds out of the way of the Clinton motorcade on the route from the airport. Some people they chased on horseback.

Addressing Peace Corps volunteers later, he marvelled at the crowd at Independence Square and the heat.

"The welcome I received in Independence Square today is the largest welcome I have ever received anywhere, and all day long. This is clearly the warmest welcome I have ever received," he said. — Reuters



President Clinton shakes hands with Ghanaians at Independence Square in Accra yesterday at the start of his tour of Africa. PHOTOGRAPH: GREG GIBSON

Hebron family left bruised but unbeaten

Julian Borger in Qiqale

WITH her husband and eldest son in military detention, Zuhur al-Atrash was left to sit alone yesterday and reflect on the vicissitudes of a month under Israeli rule.

At the beginning of March, army bulldozers arrived in Qiqale, her home village, and demolished the family house. It had been built without an Israeli permit.

Two weeks later, a group of rabbis made their way up the same steep and rocky path the bulldozers had climbed. Watched by journalists, they picked up shovels and helped the family rebuild the foundations of their shattered home.

On Sunday, a sizeable force of soldiers and policemen arrived to confiscate their tools. They beat Mrs Atrash, her

husband Yusuf, their son aged 16 and daughter aged 16. Then they arrested them.

The family have the ill-fortune to live on a hill overlooking a strategic road between Jewish settlements ringing the Palestinian West Bank city of Hebron. With every month that goes by without progress in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the struggle over territory becomes more bitter. Demolition orders are hanging over more than 1,000 Palestinian families on the West Bank who live near settlements or roads used by settlers.

Film of the arrests shows the family being beaten and kicked ferociously.

Mrs Atrash was knocked to the ground, handcuffed and dragged by her hair so that her shirt was almost pulled off her. "I was ashamed and scared. I said I would walk to the jeep myself but they would not let me," she said.

When her eldest son Hussam and daughter Marnal came to her aid they were knocked down and beaten, and Marnal is still suffering the effects.

A video recording by a journalist showed Mrs Atrash, still

Mrs Atrash was knocked down, handcuffed and dragged by her hair so her shirt was almost off

cuffed, trying to shield her son with her own body. Mr Atrash — who had been quoted the previous day slinging the praise of the helpful rabbis — was also beaten, kicked and struck with rifle-butts.

All four were detained in the police station at Kiryat Arba, the nearest Jewish settlement, and charged with obstruction of justice. The justice in question was a high court ruling last month rejecting their appeal for planning permission to build on the site.

The reason was the proximity of the family's land to a set road designed to bypass Palestinian towns, which — under Israeli regulations — requires a security belt on either side. Soon after the high court ruling, the home was demolished, forcing Zuhur, Yusuf and their 10 children into tents. Insisting they had no alternative shelter, they began to rebuild.

Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli civil administration, said yesterday: "There is no point in building bypass roads if they're no longer going to bypass anything." The family were arrested because they

"showed some resistance" to the confiscation of their building tools.

After lawyers intervened on Sunday night, Mrs Atrash and her daughter were released. Mr Atrash was offered freedom if he signed a document promising not to rebuild his house. He refused, and both he and Hussam were still being held last night in a nearby military camp.

By yesterday evening, the Rabbis for Human Rights had returned in solidarity. Arik Ascherman, their head, said the rabbis would continue to take part in the reconstruction of the house and stand vigil outside the military jail.

Wedge between two contrary forces in modern Israeli life, the Atrash family have little doubt which is the stronger. Mr Atrash's brother Ahmed said: "The rabbis have words but the soldiers have the guns."

Read the latest European news without using a phrasebook.

The Guardian

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE Education Secretary David Blunkett has undergone a most dramatic personality change. During a Commons debate last week, you will recall, he was bawling Diane Abbott like a comedy club heckler. Now he appears to think he is Mary Whitehouse. Having attacked the spending of public money on staging Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping and Fucking*, because of the play's bad language, Mr Blunkett has sent back tickets to a production of *Brassed Off*, at the Crucible in Sheffield, for the same reason. He has asked for a credit to see something less risqué. Perhaps next month's world snooker finals might be safe, now that Alex Higgins isn't involved. Or might the prospect of hearing the referee use the term "touching ball" prove too much? What a delicate plant he is, this Little Lord Fauntleroy of New Labour. The Diary calls on Frank Dobson to take him in hand, and roughen up those smooth edges with a barrage of his filthiest jokes.

I WAS saddened to hear of Juliette Binoche's late withdrawal from the Oscars. The actress's doctor forbade her making the journey to LA from London, apparently, on account of her sprained ankle. It's a shame they couldn't get Miss Binoche booked on to one of the traditional Jumbos, the ones with fuel-powered engines and pilots. These new Boeing Pedalo 747s just aren't the same at all.

IN the Sunday Times is news of my old friend Mandy Mandelson's recent weekend "of culture and reflection" with Charles and Camilla at Sandringham. According to an unnamed fellow guest, the winsome member for Harlepool was not at ease. "He was definitely a bit awkward," this person comments. "He looked like he didn't know why he was there." This is not good. If Mandy is in a high society — and his ultimate ambition is thought to involve the Foreign Office — it is of the first import that he is comfortable. To this end, I am planning to arrange a series of tutorials for him with John Morgan, author of Debutant's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners. A pager message to Oofy Weg-Frosser meets with familiar silence, but we will not easily be deterred.

A CORRECTION has appeared in the new title Sunday Business. "Our Wednesday edition referred to Gordon Brown's plans for Cheating A Fair Society," it reads. "This should have read Creating A Fair Society."

A CALL to Michael Winner about the Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados — a favourite of his now barbed-wired fugitive chairman of Newcastle — detonates a bombshell. "He's picked a very bad time to go," says Michael. "They're about to pull down the entire building. But it should be rebuilt by September 1999... I've booked my place for the Millennium already." You've what? You're jumping ship, aren't you? A long pause ensues. "I shall be surrounded by British people," says Michael, with dignity. "I shall give a little party, as always, for a few close showbiz friends. I hope Mr Cleeve will be there. He usually comes, as does Mr Chris Rea." (A list of other potential guests follows: O woe, O woe for the lack of space.) There is a consolation — a pair of his pants is to be kept on standby in Greenwich, should the roof of the Dome not be ready in time — but it won't be the same without their owner. This is very hard to bear.



Is the Pope a Catholic? Yes – and that's bad news for dictators

Hugo Young



WHEN Kennedy went to Berlin, the world heard what he said. When Reagan spoke, the world was obliged to listen. When Clinton goes to Africa, the world thinks only about his private parts. But even if Clinton's life was Simon-Pure, there wouldn't be a great audience gathering to watch this rare excursion. For what he has to say will be utterly banal. It's drained of force by his fixation on the audience back home, and by America's paralyzing lack of ambition to take a moral risk in the wider world.

President Clinton is not, except by formal measurements of economic size and military potential, a world leader. He does not lead the world. He does not seem to want to. He confers a fleeting blessing on Ghana, Uganda and other countries sufficiently reformed for the US to approve of. He'll be pleased to stand alongside Nelson Mandela, his sullied image absorbing what it can from an incontestable hero. But context as well as character debars Clinton from leadership. Americans are reluctant to see their leader take a difficult stand of any kind, and he would not dare disoblige them. Congress, in any case, wouldn't let it happen. Modern democracy consists of reading the polls, taking the pulse, struggling to be all things to all men and women, never confronting them with ideas they might not want to hear.

Leaving Africa as Clinton arrived was a real leader. Pope John Paul II is the only true world leader at large today. The frail old man who left Nigeria collects a massive audience, not just as the vicar of God but because he has a message. Can any other voice in the world draw such attention?

No. The Pope poses a problem for liberals, especially liberal Catholics like me. But it's clear, in the end, where we have to come down. Regrettable though it is to say so, there are certain messages of transcendent wisdom that only an unaccountable autocrat now seems able to utter. John Paul II, in his 20th year, is, as far as politics goes, a failure. His conduct of his office has been, in the political sense, a disaster. This began with his view of the Faith, though that surely wasn't itself to be deplored. He may be rigid in his interpretation of revealed truth, unyielding in his rebukes for all kinds of sexual behaviour except one. He rejects all moral relativism. But if a Pope doesn't stand against moral relativism, who will?

Less easy to defend is his administration of the Church. It is possible for a Pope to reject moral relativism, while acknowledging the merits of the ecclesiastical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which paved the way for a less authoritarian and Rome-centred regime, in keeping with the needs of the modern world. In several countries — Austria, Ireland, Brazil — some catastrophic episcopal appointments have seen churches divided and congregations dwindling, with a consequent enfeebling of the very moral reformation for which John Paul has stood, from the start of his papacy.

So he is very poor at politics. And he has a complicated attitude to freedom. It is possible for a Pope to reject moral relativism, while acknowledging the merits of the ecclesiastical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which paved the way for a less authoritarian and Rome-centred regime, in keeping with the needs of the modern world. In several countries — Austria, Ireland, Brazil — some catastrophic episcopal appointments have seen churches divided and congregations dwindling, with a consequent enfeebling of the very moral reformation for which John Paul has stood, from the start of his papacy.

visit a Moslem country. While internally he has been a policeman, externally he's a stubborn and innovative visionary.

This is the paradox historians will have to confront, but on which, I think, they should arrive at a favourable verdict. Wherever he has gone, especially in his later years, this Pope has been able to say the difficult things, and is often the only person whom his audience has ever heard saying them. So it was in Nigeria, an unusually squalid dictatorship, indulging in every kind of abuse of fundamental freedoms, against which our famous democracies have done no better than wait a limp-wristed hand, declaring for sanctions but not imposing them, muttering against the murder of Ken Saro-Wiwa but continuing to nurture the international oil company against whom he was mobilising local protest.

JOHAN PAUL II was magnificently clear. He told the dictator, General Abacha, to his face that Nigeria must strive for honest efforts to foster harmony and guarantee respect for human rights. He rejected against "intimidation and domination of the poor... [and] arbitrary exclusion of individuals and groups from public life". Every speech and sermon he gave, before enormous crowds, was of this stamp. One would call them fearless — except that the Pope had nothing to fear.

And that, surely, is the point of his journey and justification for his life. Occupying a place of such eminence, he could easily descend into the same banalities as the political leaders, but never chooses to do so. He uses his invulnerability for

the righteous purposes. In Cuba he made the same defiant claim to a universal system of values as in Nigeria. In Latin America, while appointing bad bishops and viciously rejecting the Marxist taint of liberation theology, he has usually spoken like a liberation theologian himself, and continued the transformation of the Roman Church from a supporter into an enemy of the dictators.

THE uncomfortable part of this is that it springs from the same stem as his intolerance. John Paul's severity in defence of the married lifestyle, the all-male and unmarried priesthood, the unborn foetus and the unimpeded conception is of a piece with his attacks on totalitarian politics and his ceaseless preaching against the evils of consumerist capitalism. He is saying: Here I stand, these are the rules of life that higher authority decrees, here are the standards to which we should aspire, such are the axioms by which humanity might do better for itself.

One doesn't have to accept all these rules to see the value of a public man who is prepared to speak for them. It has become an exceptional experience to be addressed by one who is a leader not a follower, who isn't sliding on and rocking up who deals in challenges not comforts: who gives us propositions to reject, not platitudes spun and doctored to be unrejectable. Liberal relativism has not turned out to make such a perfect world that we can't learn from its opposite. Which is why the Pope has more divisions, in a time when war no longer sets the moral compass, than Bill Clinton.

Racist terror at the door

Paul Foot



IVE BEEN talking to a brave woman, Alison Moore, a primary school teacher, who was born in London in 1967. When she recovered consciousness after being relentlessly punched and kicked by four young thugs as she left her school in the dark six weeks ago, she assumed she had just been unlucky. "I thought at first that any teacher who had come out of the school at that time and asked these youngsters what they were doing — as I had done — would have got the same treatment."

She was found under a hedge, moaning in pain, outside Sandhurst Junior School, Catford, South London, by the headmistress, and rushed to hospital, suffering from severe internal bleeding. Five days later, on February 14, still in intense pain, she was allowed home to her six-year-old daughter.

On February 22, early in the evening, a man delivered a letter through her front door. It was a crude death threat. For the first time Alison thought of another motive for the attack on her — she is black, the only black teacher at the school. "Somehow they had found out my name and where I live," she tells me. "I was absolutely petrified." She contacted the local police, who called in their racial incident unit at Hither Green. They gave her a panic button.

"Every night was a nightmare," Alison goes on. "On the night of March 13/14, as usual, I could not sleep. At half past two in the morning, I heard a noise and went downstairs. As I walked into the kitchen, I saw that a window had been forced open. A man was standing outside in a balaclava. He stood there waiting for me to see him and then he ran away. I pressed the panic button and the police came in three minutes. The kitchen door was daubed all over with swastikas — and the letters NF."

ALISON went on: "I've always thought of myself as a strong sort of person, but I must tell you that I'm scared out of my wits. I seem to shake all the time in fright. I have lost nearly a stone. I've come home today for a lunch I'd arranged ages ago for Mothers' Day but I can't live here any more — my little girl and I are staying with friends. I hope to find another home soon. "I want to tell you, though, that I am utterly determined to go back to teach at Sandhurst. I was taken on last September as a newly

qualified teacher, not a black teacher, and I feel very honoured to have got the job. It is a great school, and I have enjoyed every minute of my work there. Since the attack, everyone at the school has been wonderful. The headmistress or one of her staff have been to see me every day. The police have always been on hand when I wanted them. They are treating this as a racist attack. The union — the National Union of Teachers — have been absolutely brilliant. The local secretary and his deputy are always coming to see me and calling support meetings.

"THE other day I went to a school assembly for which I had arranged the music. I went in the headmistress's car and as we got near the school my teeth were chattering and I could hardly breathe for fright. But I'm glad I did it, because the support from the children was so wonderful. They couldn't really get on with the assembly because the children kept stopping and turning round to wave and smile at me."

I asked Alison what could be done to stop such thuggery in future. "After Dunblane," she said, "there is no excuse for not spending money on school security. If there had been a surveillance camera outside that school building

'A kitchen window had been forced open. A man standing outside was wearing a balaclava. I pressed the panic button'

that night, the thugs would have been identified and locked up by now. In general, I think schools should spend more time and put more effort into teaching people not to be bullies and not to be racists. Those young men must have been to school somewhere — perhaps their parents are racists. We need all the time to fight against the menace of racism."

To all that, I add this. Stephen Lawrence was murdered not far from Sandhurst Junior School. This part of London harbours racist gangs, inspired by fascist propaganda, which glorify in bludgeoning and murdering people because of the colour of their skin. They represent a tiny minority, universally hated and despised. Tolerating them is tolerating what happened to Stephen Lawrence and Alison Moore. Perhaps the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, which gets under way this week, should extend its terms of reference to take evidence from people like Alison Moore, and make some practical recommendations about how these gangs can be identified, isolated and stopped.

Sacking the government won't save Russia

The trouble with Boris

David Hearst

FOR close on seven years, successive Western leaders, economists and other missionaries have been talking up the prospects of Russia's recovery. Their endorsements have collectively formed a Good News Bible for Boris Yeltsin's reforms.

When Yeltsin's first reformer Yegor Gaidar lifted state controls on prices at a stroke, inflation was predicted to last for only a couple of months. Instead it turned into hyperinflation. When the mafia took over the reins of business and local government throughout Russia, this was regarded as a regrettable but natural process inherent in the birthpangs of the market economy. Russia's robber barons would in the end need a banking system. When Yeltsin stormed his own parliament, the ends

justified the means. The presidential powers that Yeltsin secured were favourably compared to that of a French president. When the tanks rolled into Chechnya, it was not Yeltsin but his hawkish advisers, the so-called party of war who had sent the ill-fated expedition on its way. Yeltsin himself disappeared for a mysteriously urgent operation on his nose.

Each year the economy has been "just about" to turn the corner of the greatest industrial decline since European Russia was invaded by Germans. But each year the reformers plead for more time, as Gaidar did when he was sacked by Yeltsin and replaced by Viktor Chernomyrdin. The tolerance shown to Boris Yeltsin, in sickness or in health, drunk or sober, is simply explained. He has suited what a collective of Western governments perceived as their short-term

interests. Had a communist or nationalist president of Russia bombed his own parliament, opposition, or invaded a part of his own state, it is doubtful whether the International Monetary Fund would still be funding him to the tune of \$11 billion.

The immediate objectives of Western foreign policy were the dismantling of the former communist state's most effective organs — the KGB, the military industrial complex, and the army — and the separation of Russia from its backyard, principally Ukraine, but also in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Far East. Gone was an economy that produced tanks and missile casings so cheaply that no one knew how to price them. Gone was a world power to rival Nato. Yeltsin was indeed our man in Moscow. But gone too was an industrial economy. Each year Russia became more

not less, reliant on its exports of oil and gas. Every precious metal, every raw material that had not been screwed down, was flogged off in the desperate search for cash. The current economic crisis derived not so much from a record 57

A weak Russia is a recipe for either disintegration or fascism.

billion roubles in unpaid wages in the private sector and seven billion in the public sector, but from the falling world price of oil. Russia is now closer to a third than it is to a first world economy. Throughout his turbulent reign of office, Yeltsin has shown a remarkable gift for seizing the political initia-

tive and wrong-footing the opposition. Be he the first party secretary in Soviet Russia, who obediently bulldozes the Ipatiev House where the Romanovs were shot by the bolsheviks, be he the populist democrat who rides on trams, campaigning against party privilege, be he the growing tear barking at his nervous courtiers, Yeltsin has an instinctive feel for power. A man without principle, he will seize whatever wave or current maintains him in power.

To no other audience but a fundamentally disillusioned one, could Yeltsin play the good cop/bad cop routine so often. Grandfather Yeltsin is forever being deceived by his feeble and lazy political offspring. Only a year ago, the two chief movers Anatoli Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, were swept into their positions as first deputy premiers, to turn the economy



round. A year later Yeltsin turns around and says they must be sacked yesterday. The government are, almost to a man, former members of the People's Party, carefully balanced to rival and unsettle each other. After three months of debate and four rounds of a budget was produced for this year, which the government may well have to secure projections are unrealistically high. Fear of this, Yeltsin's mass dismissal of his government is no more than a pre-emptive strike.

This chaos, this lack of pragmatic and effective government in Russia, the continuing collapse of the economy are in no one's interests, least of all Western Europe's. Only a strong Russian state has a chance of securing a strong reform. A weak one is a recipe for either disintegration or fascism.

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The Tsar has spoken

But don't expect much

BORIS YELTSIN's dismissal yesterday of his entire government is a sweeping act with only a small bearing on Russia's future. Coming just a week after renewed speculation about his health, it demonstrates that he is in charge, but it does not follow that he is acting wisely. The exercise of presidential power in this manner can hardly inspire the greatest confidence: yesterday most observers were whistling in the dark — or holding their breath.

Mr Yeltsin's action is constitutionally legitimate, but only on the one-sided terms he forced through in 1993 after the Moscow "rebellion" and the shelling of the White House. Gorbachev could not have done it. Brezhnev would have had to persuade his cronies first. Khrushchev might have tried to convince the Central Committee — and would have failed. But in post-communist Russia, Boris is Tsar and can just do it while his people look on bemused.

So does the outside world which has such a vested interest in Russia remaining stable. The question everyone was asking yesterday was whether Mr Yeltsin's action would be good or bad for reform. No one knows the answer but it is probably the wrong question to ask anyway. What Mr Yeltsin has done will certainly have significance for the fortunes of Russia's ruling elites — the corporate clans headed by the Moscow barons — or boyars as they might once have been called. But in a situation where it is unclear even whether ex-Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is up or

down, speculation about which banking or industrial sector will benefit must be premature. The impact on reform is even more obscure.

The Far East financial crisis set off a collateral shiver of fear that it would push Russia more deeply into economic troubles. Some slender indicators seemed to show that the Russian economy was beginning to pick itself up out of the very deep hole into which it had sunk. The OECD Economic Outlook predicted a very small increase in GDP for 1997 after seven successive years of decline. Russian officials themselves blamed the Far East for a renewal of difficulties. It may have made things worse but there were already other ominous signs: a sharp rise in interest rates which increased the cost of government borrowing, the improbability that Mr Yeltsin could fulfil his pledge to pay back wages to all state employees by the New Year (he hasn't), and the low rate of collected taxes.

In his televised address yesterday, Mr Yeltsin said that some economic changes had been achieved but acknowledged that "people do not feel the changes (are) for the better". He called for new dynamism and initiative to bring about "a powerful spurt in the economy". The country needed a "new team" which was "less involved in politics". Yet Russia has already had a succession of teams, all avowing a similar aim and picked — and then sacked — by Mr Yeltsin, for whose performance he must bear responsibility. Anatoly Chubais, the first deputy prime minister removed yesterday, has been in and out of office twice.

Mr Yeltsin's words might have some effect if they struck a popular chord with sufficient resonance to shame and intimidate the boyars and the mafia. The passive support of the Russian people for a strong man in the Kremlin survives adversity

even as social services continue to decline while mortality rates are rising. It is after all the only system of government they have known. But they are unlikely to take to the streets and launch a new revolution against privilege, corruption and crime. They will wait for the new civil government promised by Mr Yeltsin without great expectations: we would be wise not to expect too much either.

The great oil fall

First count the global damage

OPEC's decision to cut oil output by 1.1 million barrels a day is a timely reminder of the 1970s when Opec output restrictions quintupled oil prices plunging the world into recession. It also comes as a culture shock since the 1990s are supposed to be about globalisation, free markets and reduced intervention not cartelisation. Whether it succeeds is another matter. The price of Brent crude rose by \$1.78 to \$15 yesterday but it will be some time before we know whether restraint holds and whether other countries increase output to fill the gap. Opec, which controls 40 per cent of world output, was in a panic having seen the oil price drop to \$13.22 a barrel last week compared with over \$30 in 1985. At that time pundits thought it would soar to \$100 a barrel by 2000. In fact the price has fallen thanks to intensive exploration and — limited — energy conservation.

Low oil prices are one of the factors behind falling inflation across the world — though reactions to the fall have shown sharp contrasts. In the United States a combination of market forces and fierce resistance to higher taxes has sent the price of gasoline down to below \$1 an American

gallon — the lowest level (after allowing for inflation) in recorded history according to the American Petroleum Institute. In some places prices as low as 70 cents or even 60 cents a gallon have been recorded making it far cheaper than bottled water. This is great news for US inflation and leaves customers with more income in their purses to spend on other things — but it is hardly a sensible contribution to environmental improvement. In Britain Labour has continued the Conservative policy of raising taxes on petrol by at least 5 per cent more than inflation. The result is that petrol costs as much per litre in Britain as it does for a gallon in the US.

What's missing from this process is a genuine link between taxation and the reduction of carbon emissions. Britain's high taxes on petrol historically have been mainly to raise revenue rather than to improve the climate while in the US petrol consumers pay nothing towards the environmental damage they cause. At the very least America ought to use higher imposts on gasoline to reduce tax elsewhere so the package becomes revenue neutral to taxpayers. If market forces are the only criterion then petrol prices won't rise significantly until world oil reserves have been seriously depleted and when damage to the environment may have become irreversible.

Ethics in schools

Reform should start at the top

A KEY government adviser goes to address a conference of secondary school headteachers and talks about the need to ensure children not only achieve good academic standards but also a highly developed sense

of ethics too. And how do the headteachers respond? Hysterically. One private school head ludicrously accuses Prof Michael Barber of adopting the totalitarian tactics of the Nazis, Bolsheviks and French Revolutionaries. The general secretary of the headteachers' association suggests Prof Barber's intervention raised doubts about the Government's continued support for compulsory worship. Why? An illogical jump from the Professor's statement of fact that progressively over the last 200 years, the belief system which has sustained Western societies had crumbled. Now that Christianity was a minority interest new ways should be devised to teach ethics and combat the new ethos — unfettered individualism along with rampant consumerism. The headteacher needs to learn a few philosophical facts. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury has recognised that moral education should not be confined to people with religious inclinations. The Greeks were searching for truth and goodness long before Christ was born. As Plato noted: if God approves of certain actions because they themselves are morally right, not that they are morally right because God approves of them, then God is logically dispensable. Schools alone cannot turn the tide. The family, media, peer group and religious leaders all play a part but schools still have a crucial role, even though children are only there for 15 per cent of their waking time. That still amounts to 15,000 hours. The first goal of every school should be an explicit statement of values. Value one, perhaps, should be learning to respect the opinions of others. Clearly one head needs reminding that the ethos of a school is as important as the formal curriculum. The blind rigid thinking he displayed over the weekend suggests reform had better start at the top.

Letters to the Editor

Different standards

TWO QUOTES from the Guardian (March 20) — Page 7: "It is no longer acceptable for schools to stay open for 38 weeks a year. A company would not tolerate its building standing empty for three months a year." — Margaret Hodge MP. The second was on Page 9: "In a New Statesman poll (MPS) voted in favour of retaining their average 17 weeks recess per year." — Trevor Woodhouse, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

LAST WEEK'S budget gave a £2.50 rise in Income Support premium, over inflation, for under-11s from November. But I have heard no one mention the fact that you no longer get the higher 11 rate when your child becomes 11, but in the September after the child's birthday. I hoped to use this extra (six months) money to buy secondary school uniform for my son. But I will not receive the extra few pounds a week until he has started secondary school in September. S Williams, Cardiff.

PROFESSOR David Cesar-Faith, March 21, put me in mind of what I was told over 40 years ago by the priest instructing me in the Catholic faith. Catholic anti-Semitism, he said, is the result of a totally unjustified projection on to Jews of a desire to murder God which all too many Catholics unconsciously harbour themselves. I have always found this reply helpful. J G Thompson, Stratford-upon-Avon.

THE answer to Martin Jeeves' question (Letters, March 21) is 24,000 to 36,000 miles — given a typical 12,000 annual mileage, 30mpg and 10 year vehicle life. Of all the pollution generated during the life of a car, 20 to 30 per cent is during its production, before it even turns a wheel. Dr J B Colam, Keswick, Cumbria.

All hell breaks loose over God's (or god's) role in the curriculum

WHEN so much moral non-sense is regurgitated in public life, Prof Michael Barber's reasoned delineation of religion in state schools is a moment of sanity (Schools adviser urges moral code to replace God, March 23). I would prefer people to treat me well not because they love or fear some other creature of their imaginations which they call a god, nor because a nice theist so many centuries ago told them to, but because they love, like or respect me, either personally or as a fellow human being.

I AM surprised that I have never before heard of Michael Barber, as he must be an influential person indeed to be able to replace God. Those who, unlike Prof Barber, do not recognise the "absence of God" in the world will surely be surprised to see Christianity described as a "minority interest", rather like stamp-collecting or train-spotting. In a country in which less than one person in six recognises the millennium as a Christian celebration, should we not be trying to bring God back into daily life rather than gradually but inexorably squeezing Him out and trying to replace Him with a secular and sterile code of ethics? Sue Hodson, Peterborough.

THE problem with teaching children that morality springs from religious belief alone is that when, as their thinking matures and develops, many of them reject religious notions, such as the existence of a creative God, you are encouraging them to also reject morality. Schools must accept that, for many people today, belief in God is no longer rational or possible. Because of this, you owe it to our children, and to society as a whole, to introduce moral and ethical ideas in schools free from the trappings of religious dogma. Dr Belinda Geddes, Sval, Cheshire.

YOU report that Patrick Tobin, chairman of the Headmasters and Headmistresses' Conference, regards any form of citizenship education as on the road to a new totalitarianism. This is very odd for a Scottish head when "Modern Studies" has been long entrenched in Scotland, and is well taught in his own school. Modern Studies contains almost all that the Committee on the Teaching of Citizenship and Democracy in Schools, that will report on Thursday, will be rather boringly advocating. It is a respectable and widely representative committee. Hold your horses. On the RE issue we wisely say nothing and, unlike Prof Michael Barber, as chairman of that committee, wild horses would not drag an opinion from me. Prof Bernard Crick, Edinburgh.

SO Prof Barber believes pupils should learn the ethics of "global citizenship" to replace crumbling religious values? One wonders which religious values he is thinking of. Perhaps "You must love your neighbour as yourself" (Christian Gospel), "Show kindness to the neighbour who is related as well as the neighbour who is a stranger" (Qur'an Surah 4), "There can be no worship without performing good deeds" (Guru Granth Sahib 4). Such values are expressed in a variety of concepts — such as charity in Christianity, *zakat* (almsgiving) in Islam, *zedakah* (justice) in Judaism and *sewa* (service for others) in Sikhism. Geoff Teece, Director, Westhill RE Centre, Birmingham.

On Wormwood Scrubs, from the inside

AS a lay observer, I regularly visit magistrates' courts and crown courts to check on the conditions under which prisoners are held, and their treatment by the contractor which, in the case of London, is Securicor Custodial Services. Complaints about Securicor staff are extremely rare, but a few prisoners have complained about being hit by prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs (Torture prison to get new governor, March 20).

Many prisoners are unwilling to make specific complaints for fear of further mistreatment. Others say that their complaints are not taken seriously, so it is a waste of time filling in a complaints form, and one prisoner reported seeing his form torn up.

board of visitors. Mr Jarvis was fully aware of the problems at the prison but, although prisoners would talk about the situation, he found, as I have, that they are often reluctant to make formal complaints. And if prisoners are unwilling to do this, then it is very difficult for the board of visitors to get anything done. For this reason, criticism of Mr Jarvis for not speaking out sooner is most unreasonable. Keith Wicks, Chairman, NW London Lay Observers.

AS THE widow of a man who committed suicide while on remand at Wormwood Scrubs, I have been heartened to see that a group of prisoners have finally managed to do this, then it is very difficult for the board of visitors to get anything done. For this reason, criticism of Mr Jarvis for not speaking out sooner is most unreasonable. Keith Wicks, Chairman, NW London Lay Observers.

the lawyers acting on behalf of the prisoners. If there were allegations of abuse against individuals working in any other public sector establishment, such as a hospital or children's home, the person or persons would be suspended on full pay pending an investigation: why does the prison service think it has the right to forego any such safeguards?

Officers who have been accused of abuse are being left in charge of these prisoners who have made the allegations. Such a situation should not be allowed to continue and the prison service know this, but their failure to take the appropriate action just goes to show how the prison service is held to ransom by the Prison Officers' Association.

NEARLY 20 years ago, prisoners in D-Block at Wormwood Scrubs were subjected to the most disastrous experiment in prisoner control. In August 1979, a peaceful demonstration by prisoners was broken up by a large number of officers, who stormed the wing carrying wooden poles and wearing helmets and visors.

Despite injuries to 60 prisoners — and a Home Office inquiry finding prima facie evidence of assault — lack of corroborative evidence meant that no prison officers were prosecuted. However, this did not stop the board of visitors from imposing some hefty penalties against the prisoners. Justice would be better served if boards of visitors were

stripped of their disciplinary function altogether and were free to pursue their other role as prison watchdogs, able to consider complaints from prisoners more dispassionately than is the case at present. Proposals along these lines were advanced by the Jellicoe Report as long ago as 1975, but the Home Office has yet to act on its recommendations. Nigel Wilkins, London.

IF THERE were beatings at Wormwood Scrubs, at least some of the victims will have been seen by the prison doctors. The histories and findings of doctors may well have suggested the cause of the injuries. Any enquiry must ask about the proportion of black prisoners in local government medical service. There is a risk of conflicting interests with doctors having to decide whether to serve the patient or the prison authority. Dr Joe Collier, London.

Trouble at city hall: some can't get in, others can't wait to get out

ROY Hattersley wrote about the deselection of Councillor Raghib Ahsan (Ousting a Muslim, March 19). As a colleague representing the same inner city ward, and chair of the equalities committee in Birmingham, I can vouch for the fact that Councillor Ahsan is one of the most competent ward councillors I have had the good fortune to work with during my 11 years as a city councillor.

The Labour Party has recently issued a discussion paper entitled *Modernising Local Government*, which suggests that local government needs to become more representative; however statistics seem to suggest that centralised involvement in candidate selection is actually diminishing the proportion of black councillors in local government. It is clearly hypocritical for a party supporting local democracy to blatantly override it when it comes to the selection of its own local govern-

ment candidates. Unless Labour starts listening to its grassroots, black and other minority communities will become increasingly cynical about its commitment to represent their interests. Cllr Roy Benjamin, Birmingham City Council.

MA WHITE, male, (nearly) middle-aged councillor and I'm retiring from council after 12 years, for the same reason many young men and women don't stand as candidates (Middle-aged men fill the council chambers, March 20) — the relentlessly hostile attitude of councils and other public agencies to childcare responsibilities. It remains illegal to pay childcare allowances to councillors despite the fact that they are losing wages in order to serve the public. We don't need exhortations, we need enabling action by government. Cllr Bob Cannell, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council.



Nation of shopkeepers at ransom

PEOPLE in Britain are being lulled into thinking a referendum on the single currency will enable them to stop it happening. But 11 European countries will introduce the euro on January 1, 1999, and British retailers will be expected to handle the pound and the euro, by either buying an extra till or spending large sums on new software and hardware for dual currency tills. They will also be expected to display dual price tickets and to have trained staff to give change in either currency.

We shopkeepers can either let the big stores that can afford to operate dual currency clean up, and go out of business through lack of sales, or burden ourselves with extra costs to cope with dual currency — and still go out of business. The Government's approach to the single currency has been described by some commentators as "accepting the euro through the back door". I don't, I call it blackmail. Gordon Rogers, Kingston Upon Hull.

Getting there

THE reply by Alan Lee Williams of the Transport on Water Association (Letters, March 23) to my letter (March 18) has missed the point. I have no doubts whatsoever about the Watermen having the requisite skills "to negotiate the treacherous tides, the bends and the river curvatures" of the tidal Thames. My concern is that any monopoly represents a restriction of trade. We are constantly told that monopolies do not act in the public interest. Is Mr Williams seriously suggesting that it would be unsafe to let loose a person qualified to command a half-million-ton supertanker or a cruise liner on a Thames passenger-carrying vessel? He also did not tell us how long it takes to become a Waterman or how open the process of selection is. I have a suspicion that it takes longer to learn to be a Thames Waterman than it does to learn to fly a jumbo jet. Roger Beckett, Malden, Essex.



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10 OBITUARIES

Fred Pooley

Building for Britain

FRED Pooley, who has died aged 81, rose from Cockney origins to become one of the pre-eminent local authority architects who spearheaded the postwar rebuilding of Britain. As Buckinghamshire county architect, he made the original layout for what was to become Milton Keynes. Later, at the Greater London Council, he bagged the railway authorities into creating Thameslink, one of the capital's few recent public transport success stories.

Pooley was the son of a West Ham builder. It was in the borough engineer's office there that he began work while studying architecture by night at the Northern Polytechnic. From the stubborn stance of that little working-class municipal field, just beyond the London County Council's grasp, he learnt to cherish independence.

After the second world war, devastated West Ham needed to plan. Pooley rose to be deputy borough architect and planning officer before transferring to the even more shattered Coventry in 1950. There he served as deputy to the charismatic Donald Gibson and imbibed the new thinking about prefabrication, fast-track building and modern materials. He was central to Coventry's grand housing partnership with Wimpey, the climax of which was tall, concrete-clad blocks designed by Pooley for the centre of the Tile Hill neighbourhood, then

regarded as the *dernier cri* in housing production. When Pooley moved to Buckinghamshire as county architect in 1958, he was meant to convert a conservative authority to the new faith. Instead, he went native. Finding able, small builders, good brickworks, a population rising fast and a shortage of school places on his turf, he encouraged his architects to build simple, brick primary schools with pitched roofs. The method was called "rat-trail" — rationalised traditional construction.

The Ministry of Education's school-building moguls were furious at first, but left him alone when they found that Buckinghamshire's schools were cheap and durable. Pooley liked to wave a map at visitors showing how every other English county had been corralled into school-building "consortia". The term was Lord Eassey's; Bucks alone had managed to resist.

Yet he still hankered after a grand gesture. This took the shape of "Fred's fort", a 12-storey waisted tower, finished in 1968, which houses the Bucks county council offices at Aylesbury. It remains the town's principal landmark: a quaint, local response to the Torre Velasco at Milan.

In 1965-66, seeking to direct the county's growth of Blackley, Pooley persuaded the council to back his north Bucks new city plan. This concept for 250,000 people was based on 24 miles of free

monorail, describing a loose figure of eight and focused on a megastructure, which would have made the centre of Cumbernauld look like small beer. High-density communities of the type now back in fashion were to cluster around the stations.

But local authority-inspired initiatives for new towns were consistently stamped upon by Dame Evelyn Sharp at the Ministry of Housing. So, under the Wilson govern-



Pooley... went native

ment, the "Pooleysville" plan was handed over to a development corporation and came under the influence of American libertarianism, which transformed the original plan into the utterly different — and ecologically incorrect — city of Milton Keynes.

By the time Pooley had become president of the Royal Institute of British Architects

in 1973-5, the local authority wave had passed its peak. It was a surprise, therefore, when, after his retirement from Buckinghamshire, he was induced in 1974 to join the GLC as controller of planning and transportation. The move was probably a mistake, but Pooley ticked to sort out London's bloated planning bureaucracy. He knew times had changed and, in the event, contented himself with pragmatic aims — rationalising development control, clearing up the mess left after the debacle of the London motorway box and fostering a more thoughtful style of planning.

In due course, he was given architecture as well. But the GLC's predicament as a strategic authority, hamstrung by strong boroughs and changing hands at every election, had already become unenviable, and Pooley was unable to achieve much. It says a lot for his tenacity that he pushed the Thameslink plan into reality and pressed British Rail into re-opening the long-closed Snow Hill tunnel near Farringdon.

Pooley retired in 1980 to the Buckinghamshire home at Whiteleaf, outside Aylesbury, which he and his wife Hilda, whom he married in 1944, had never deserted, with a railway carriage in the garden. He was a genial man with a strong sense of common sense and a streak of definite cynicism.

He is survived by Hilda and their three daughters.

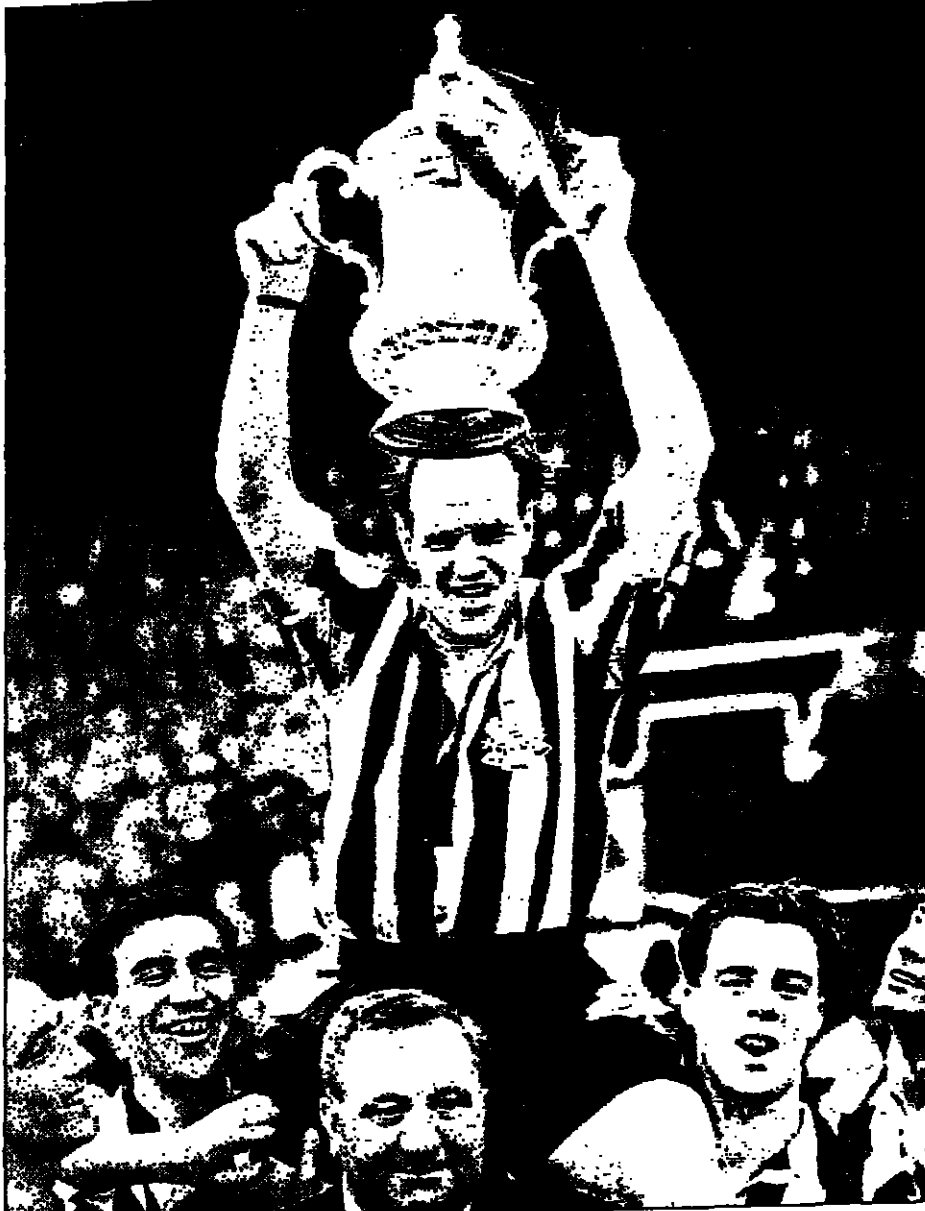
Andrew Saint

Wyd Harrington writes: In early 1974, the Greater London Council realised it needed a new head of planning and transportation. In that Byzantine era of County Hall, architects ruled, believing themselves to be the descendants of Christopher Wren, and so an additional disciplining planning control was not viewed with unalloyed delight.

Fred Pooley arrived for his interview with the GLC, and the look of a confused handyman. Under the hesitancy and genuine humility, we quickly were confirmed in our foreknowledge that here was our man, even though he wore short-sleeved shirts. A few years later, he became the GLC's chief architect as well. Much of this coincided with the first major capital cuts in local government expenditure, and our smooth adjustment was in no small way due to his realism and diplomacy.

In all his jobs, Fred respected historic and traditional architectural values and local consultation. He loved the idea of arcades and the return of piazzas for strollers, vagabonds and hucksters. We won a few battles over Covent Garden with the scaled developers. Nash, who designed a large part of Regency London, would have approved of Fred.

Frederick Bernard Pooley, architect and town planner, born April 18, 1916; died March 11, 1998



Up for the cup... Scouler celebrates Newcastle's FA triumph over Manchester City in 1955

Jimmy Scouler

On wings of power

JIMMY Scouler, who has died aged 73, will be chiefly remembered as the classical type of Scottish wing half-back — a right half, powerful and relentless in the tackle, economical, rather than inspired, in his steady use of the ball. In the days of the third-back game and W formation, it was the inside-forward, rather than the wing-half, who was expected to be inventive.

A Scot, born in Livingston, Scouler joined the Royal Navy during the last war. Portsmouth managers, who spotted him playing in local naval games in Hampshire, persuaded him to join them as a professional in 1945. He proved a more than competent successor to another Scottish right-half, Jimmy Guthrie, who had captained Pompey to their surprising 4-1 win against Wolves at Wembley in the 1939 Cup Final.

Scouler became a dynamic figure in a famous half-back line consisting of himself, Reg Frewin, centre-half, and Jimmy Dickinson at left-half. Scouler and Dickinson complemented each other perfectly. If Scouler was the

tough nut who won the ball so fiercely and competitively, the more academic Dickinson was the elegant foil. Scouler got his first cap for Scotland against Denmark in October 1951, an honour many thought to be well overdue. The Scouler-Flewlin-Dickinson middle line equipped Portsmouth with a backbone and a springboard, which enabled them to win the Football League Championship in some style for two consecutive seasons, 1949-50 and 1950-51. It looked as if they would win the FA Cup as well in 1949, when their opponents in the semi-final were second-division Leicester City, but on the day neither Scouler nor Dickinson could subdue Dave Revie, then the inspiration of Leicester's attack. Portsmouth went down 3-1.

SCOUler did not miss any of Pompey's league games when they first won the championship, and when they retained it in 1950 on goal average, just ahead of Wolves, he missed only half a dozen. Significantly, he did not score a single goal in either campaign. That was not seen, in

those days, as being a half-back's job. From Portsmouth, he moved on to an Indian summer with Newcastle United, where he made up for the disappointment of 1949 by playing at Wembley in the FA Cup-winning team, which defeated Manchester City 3-1. Altogether he won nine caps for Scotland, though only one of them against England. On retiring, Scouler went into management with Cardiff City, where he did remarkably well with slender resources, not the least of his accomplishments being to stay in office for fully 10 years.

His greatest success was when he took the Second Division club all the way to the semi-final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1967/68, beating the powerful Torpedo Moscow in a play-off in the quarter finals, and forcing a draw away to the equally formidable SV Hamburg in the semi-final, before losing the return leg 3-2 at Ninian Park.

Brian Gnanville

Jimmy Scouler, footballer, born January 11, 1925; died March 19, 1998

Birthdays

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, C-in-C, RAF Strike Command, 58; Joyce Arram, secretary, Lib Dem Lawyers Association, 62; David Atkinson, Conservative MP, 58; Barbara Daly, make-up artist, 53; Robert Fox, theatrical producer, 46; Archie Gemmill, footballer, 51; Prof John Hedgecoe, photographer, 61; Sonia Lammiman, athlete, 42; Benjamin Laxon, baritone, 61; Patrick Malahide, actor, 53; Gene Nelson, dancer, actor and director, 78; Suzanne Norwood, circuit judge, 72; Dame Bridget Ogilvie, director, Wellcome Trust, 60; Herman Ouseley, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 53; Mary Pearce, molecular biologist, 50; Kathy Rinaldi, tennis player, 31; Dorothy Severin, Professor of Spanish, Liverpool University, 58; Maude Storey, former president, Royal College of Nursing, 68; Alan Swan, entrepreneur of the home computer, 51; Philip Vankling, secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 51; Prof Harry Whittington, geologist, 82.

Paul-Marc Henry

A hand across the world

ONLY hours before his sudden death at the age of 79, Paul-Marc Henry was dining with friends and giving them an account of Romania, where he had just been to advise on the country's economic problems. In retirement, this French diplomat was still travelling the world, still much sought after for his ability to grapple with development and environmental issues, and for his ability to inspire succeeding generations with new ideas for tackling contemporary problems.

He had risen from humble beginnings to join the small elite group of French diplomats, who carry the rank of "ambassadeur de France". A student of economic and political science, he obtained a doctorate in 1946 with a far-sighted thesis on "the structural revolution of the British economy" and, during

the early part of his long career, he served in London as secretary-general of the now defunct Anglo-French Commission for Technical Co-operation South of the Sahara.

In his last post, he served as French ambassador in Beirut. But the greater part of Henry's diplomatic career was spent in international organisations. He was deputy head of the UN Economic Development Programme in 1961; in 1971, he was UN under-secretary in charge of aid for East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), followed by a long stint in Paris as head of the OECD's Development Centre. He also became president of the International Society for Development.

As a student, I met Paul-Marc when he was first working in London. Later, when he was back in the Quai D'Orsay in charge of the French Foreign Ministry's Africa desk,

he became an invaluable source on the leadership of newly-emerging independent Africa. In New York, his home became a meeting place for diplomats, journalists, writers, artists and dog lovers. He and his American wife, Mary, had a much-loved black poodle that became the "author" of *Poodlestian — a Poodle's Eye-View of History*. As told by "bete-noire" to Paul-Marc, the book was humorously illustrated by another frequent visitor, Peter Ustinov.

It was while Paul-Marc was still in New York that he acquired a derelict farmhouse at Seguret, in Provence. It was scarcely habitable. But with the help of local builders, and his ageing father, the house was slowly restored. There were vineyards and enough land to plant a rose garden and have

a small pool. Paul-Marc, who was an inspired cook, liked to migrate around the property for meals. But the favourite, always, was that terrace where we would occasionally dance until all hours of the night.

After his divorce from Mary, Paul-Marc moved to a smaller house he had built on the property. There he surrounded himself with his books and his music and continued to hold court. But he continued to work, and during the last few years, spent much time on consultancy work in eastern Europe.

Paul-Marc Henry was married three times, and from his first marriage had a son, Jacques, and a daughter, Nicole.

Heila Pick

Paul-Marc Henry, diplomat, born October 9, 1918; died March 9, 1998



Flights of fancy... Corrin and his wife, Sara

Stephen Corrin

With children's hearts in mind

IN 1964, Stephen Corrin, who has died aged 83, wrote a delightful children's story, *The Fantastic Tale of the Plucky Sailor and the Pigeon*, published by Faber and Faber. Later, the publishers commissioned Corrin and his wife, Sara, to compile anthologies of children's stories. These started a remarkable collaboration.

The 18 anthologies, later published by Penguin's Puffin imprint, became bestsellers, selling more than a million copies. The Corrins ensured that the stories they selected would stimulate children's imaginations and widen their fantasies. Via titles like *Stories for Seven-Year-Olds* (1964), *A Time to Laugh* (1972) and *Favourite Fairy Tales*

(1988), they became household names the world over. With more illustrations by Ardizzone, Corrin also translated from Danish, Hans Andersen's *Fourteen Classic Tales* (1978).

The son of a shopkeeper, Corrin was one of 12 children born in Tredegar, South Wales, to a strictly orthodox Jewish family, which produced rabbis, a professor of psychology, and many people prominent in the Jewish community. He graduated in modern languages and Latin from University College, Cardiff, and in 1938 married the vivacious, 19-year-old Sara Nirenstein. They opened a Jewish bookshop, the London Press, but it was not very successful. At the outbreak of the second world war, Corrin was called up to the Army, but

later ill-health — a lifelong problem — led to his discharge. He became a French and Latin teacher at Kilburn grammar school, in north-west London, where his pupils included the future historians Professors Jonathan Israel and Robert Wistrich, and the Financial Times economic commentator, Sir Samuel Brittan.

CORRIN was a good linguist. Apart from his anthologies, he translated from French Mircea Eliade's anthropological book, *The Forge and the Crucible*, and from Russian a children's book and a book on psychology. He reviewed for the Daily Telegraph and the Guardian and carried on an extensive correspondence on literature and philosophy

with writers and scholars such as Isaiah Berlin, Iris Murdoch, Wilfrid Beckerman and the socialist social historian, Raphael Samuel. Corrin enjoyed sharp, intellectual arguments, and was fond of quoting from the Talmud as from obscure French writers. Shy and reserved, often reticent, he had a quiet sense of humour, and enjoyed teasing people with acute puns and playfulness of language. He was, for his intimate friends, a delightful companion. He is survived by his wife, Sara, their two daughters and a younger brother.

Chimene Abramson

Stephen Corrin (Samuel Aaron Cohen) writer, born August 26, 1914; died March 11, 1998

Lalita Pawar

DURING a career spanning 72 years, Lalita Pawar, who has died aged 79, worked in more than 700 films of the Hindi cinema. Her career began as a seven-year-old in the silent era and she made rapid progress, playing the lead in films like *Himmat Mardan* and *Naujagi Palkar*, becoming one of the most glamorous actresses of her times.

But then, in 1943, an accident led to facial paralysis and left her jobless for more than three years. Yet, as she once said, the facial distortion provided her with a longer lease of life in the film industry. It was when she shifted to character roles that Pawar became a household name in India. Whether it was as a mother, a squint-eyed, vampish mother-in-law, or a good-hearted madonn, cinemagoers took her to their hearts. Sometimes she seemed more popular than even the film's hero and hero-

ine. She received the prestigious Filmfare award for best character actor for her role in Raj Kapoor's *Anari*.

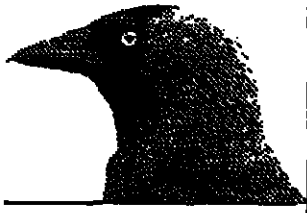
Pawar's personal life was less successful. Her first marriage ended when her husband took a fancy to her younger sister. Pawar suggested her children marry, and treated their children as her own. Her second marriage to Rajprakash Gupta, of Bombay's Ambika Studio, gave her much-needed support.

Her film career was again interrupted in 1990 because of cancer of the jaw, but she made a comeback in 1997. Apart from Bombay movies, Pawar featured in Marathi productions. Her debut as a vamp was in a Marathi film *Manthara* in the television serial *Ramayana*.

Haresh Pandya

Lalita Pawar, actress, born April 18, 1918; died February 23, 1998

Jackdaw



In fashion

THE past 10 years have seen a worrying development by [fashion] designers — very often male designers — whose role has traditionally been to create clothes which made ordinary women feel beautiful and therefore confident. Today's alternatives propose looks which no woman of sane mind would ever dream of wearing.

Women have been offered the choice of baring their breasts, exposing their buttocks, looking as if they have just been violated, appearing like they have escaped from

an asylum set up specifically to care for the victims of S & M, or posing as pre-pubescent children. Naturally, they have rejected such suggestions, but by doing so they have put themselves into a crisis situation — one which is increasingly reflected within the industry.

Who are women to trust to create images for them that are new and exciting, but are also actually capable of being worn? Do they smirk at the creations by young designers and imagine them to be nothing more than alarming manifestations of men behaving badly or should they treat them as an insidious threat?

Fashion is a language. It can be correct, using standard punctuation, grammar and vocabulary — as couture always did in the past; or it can be slightly more laid back, as casual clothes have traditionally been, by breaking the rules and relaxing the conventions, or it can be obscene, full of foul mouthed references and unnecessary

shock tactics. The Tarantino school of fashion. Colin McDowell talks fashion in *Scene*.

Tokay is okay

TOKAY (the English name for the original tokaji wine) has always been peculiar. It is made from local grape varieties, notably furmint, grown on slopes overlooking the river Bodrog (in eastern Hungary). Late autumn weather often brought noble rot, the same fungus (*botrytis cinerea*) responsible for great sauternes. The rotten grapes, called aszú, were harvested and pressed into a paste, then added to a base wine... and vinified as a conventional white wine.

Because the aszú grapes were rich in sugar, the wine re-fermented, resulting in a sweet wine with considerable alcohol and concentration. It was then aged for years in small casks in labyrinthine cellars beneath the vineyards. *Comé Nast Traveller* knocks back the Hungarian wine.

Suit set

BEING a Jamaican is not always easy. Wearing a suit while travelling to the south-west, I fell into conversation with a young English lawyer, who was going to Bristol to defend a client. We had a chat about rail privatisation, books, and inevitably, the weather. Disembarking, he said to me: "It's nice to meet a Jamaican, who's wearing a suit, who isn't a defendant."

I resisted the temptation to reply with some choice Jamaican expletives and settled instead for: "Che, feisty bwcy." (Very roughly translated: Cheeky devil!)

Ferdinand Dennis in *New Statesman*.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4366; write: Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hannah Pool

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Blackmore Vale was a great hunting forest long before, as Leyland records, it was cleared under William the Conqueror to become the gentle, pastoral vale of modern times. Settlements on the fringe of the forest — Henstridge, the ridge where stallions were kept, and Horsington, the tun of the horsekeepers or groomers — supported the aristocratic pursuit of hunting, and lay close by the ancient track that ran from Salisbury to Sherborne. That track is now the A30, and since the distant past, by Henstridge Ash, at the crossing that inspired a dismal poem by Hardy, and where now there is constant, busy traffic, there has been an inn. Nowadays, it is cheerfully devoted to eating and drinking, and much passing trade, but the leisure pursuits of the more static community, based on dairy farming 200 years ago, were not always so peaceful. The Western

Gazette invited "gentlemen gamblers" to go to the Ash Inn in 1782 for two evenings of "cuddleg for a guinea... the prize to go to that man that breaks the most heads and fairesst". There is another notable ash a few miles away with a different kind of history. We followed a footpath across pasture and meadow, the grass very lush for the time of year after such a mild winter, over bumpy fields of maize stubs, and then along a short stretch of the old road, which goes nowhere except to a farm. The modern A30 takes another route. And there it stands, the old, lop-sided gospel ash, enclosed in a field on the county boundary. They say that folk from the villages used to gather here to listen to itinerant preachers, and that the sitting in open country and on the boundary was to enable the faithful to disperse at need and escape interfering authority. JOHN VALLINS

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

ADRIAN Searle's review, Pages 10 and 11, G2, March 17, of the René Magritte exhibition in Brussels, had an unintended surrealistic quality due to the columns of type on Page 10 being placed in the wrong order. For a clearer idea of the review, please refer to the columns on that page in the following order: 1, 2, 4, 3, 5. Apologies to Searle and his readers.

IN A REPORT headed, Le Pen's extremists gain and Gaullists lose in regional polls, we referred to the former defence minister of France, Philippe Léotard. We should have said François Léotard, Philippe, his brother, is an actor.

THE TROMBONIST in Dickie Bird's cultural life, Page 3, Friday Review, March 20, was George Chisholm, not Jen.

It is the policy of the Guard-

Death Notices

MERVIN. On Friday March 20th, William aged 96 years. Very much loved husband of Joan and loving father of David, Richard and Andrew. Funeral, Tuesday 17th Wednesday, Church of St. Andrew, 17th Avenue, 11.30am. Immediate family invited. Donations to Friends of the County Museum, 11.30am. Home 01753 47414.

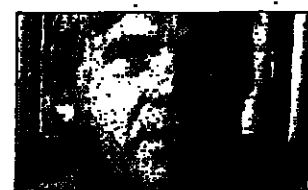
MORRIS. Jean Spencer, beloved wife of David, mother of Tim and Chris, died peacefully in hospital on Tuesday, March 16th, 1998. Funeral, Tuesday 17th Wednesday, Church of St. Andrew, 17th Avenue, 11.30am. Immediate family invited. Donations to Friends of the County Museum, 11.30am. Home 01753 47414.

Write your obituary or death notice to: The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Anal
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foe

Do

Analysis The defence review



Paul Foot:
Terror attacks
8

Your flexible foe

Labour has learned to love the military – if it's financially prudent, of course. That means sending in mobile forces only when a crisis erupts. By David Fairhall

THE collective groan that went up from the UK's armed forces when newly elected Labour announced "yet another defence review" could be heard a long way from Aldershot. Yet 11 months later, as final proposals are submitted for ministerial approval, the military has a good deal to be pleased about.

The fighting machine emerging from the Government's strategic defence review will certainly be smaller (although the Army should gain more manpower). But it will be far better adapted to a world in which UN peacekeeping, not cold-war confrontation, is the model. Although Labour's defence team would not like the comparison, it shares Lord Hurd's concern, when Foreign Secretary, that Britain should be "punching above her weight". This Government, in truth, is at least as eager as its Conservative predecessors to strut the international stage in combat kit. The Treasury may have something to say about that in the next few weeks.

This review is the third – and most successful – attempt to move our defensive forces forward from the static, dug-in strategies of the 1980s, when the West fortified itself against the threat from the East. Modern peacekeeping, by contrast, demands the rapid response and mobility of a fire brigade, with forces organised on a flexible tri-service basis.

This change has required a huge institutional shift. The first effort, the Options for Change review of 1991, was a first rough pruning. The 1994 Defence Costs Study seems in retrospect little more than a Treasury-driven exercise in managerial reform.

Now Labour, which before the election had little idea what a defence review would mean, has waded in, with widespread public consultation to bolster its credibility. Foreign-policy considerations have shaped much of the process – something the MoD hopes will make it less vulnerable to Treasury mutilation.

The main foreign-policy change relates to the ending of the cold war, when all our NATO forces had to do was sit under their nuclear umbrella, waiting for a doomsday few believed would ever arrive. Now, by contrast, they recognise a real requirement to get up and go – to Bosnia, the Gulf or wherever – and remain in a hostile environment for years at a time. Military planning has acquired a new realism – which is why the Army will need 23,000 more troops to sustain operations.

The strategic defence review, known as the SDR, looks 20 years ahead. In this context, the need to be "better adapted" means having the air transport and shipping to reach a destination in a hurry, and the supply chain to stay and fight. "We're looking at somewhat smaller forces," as one insider explains it, "but more deployable, and better supported."

It has generally been easier for the Army than the other two services to translate this broad concept into hardware, manpower and command structures. Throughout the cold war, the bulk of the British Army sat on the Rhine in Germany, preparing to defend its allocated section of the NATO line. This was known as "forward defence". For that the soldiers needed large numbers of tanks, to match those of the Soviet "shock" armies poised in the former East Germany.

A good deal of NATO's static defences have been dismantled since the Berlin Wall came down – including the British Army of the Rhine. One of the first questions for the SDR was whether Britain needed to keep even one tank division in Germany. How could such a second-world-war relic be justified now?

The answer is a mixture of money and politics. The 1st Armoured Division will remain because it has nowhere in Britain to live and train. Besides which NATO still values this contribution to its residual territorial defence. If the Brits were to leave, the Americans might follow; and with the possible exception of France, none of the Western allies wants that.

The Army's tank fleet can nevertheless be drastically cut. Only the 800 new Challenger 2 tanks will remain (a reduction of more than half), and less than a third of those will still be thundering round the German countryside.

The Army's main requirement from the review is six "deployable" armoured or mechanised brigades. This means two can be abroad on operations at the same time. One might still be in Bosnia, with another on short notice to move somewhere like the Gulf. They would be despatched and commanded, along with any naval or air forces on the same mission, from the tri-service Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ), based deep inside a bunker at Northwood in north-west London.

At present, the Army has only five suitable brigades. It plans to re-equip the present airborne brigade to form a sixth, while transferring its three parachute battalions (though only two at a time) to the airmobile (helicopter)

Out with the old

The cold war left our armed forces stationed in fixed positions. Planners want to move them to be ready to respond to a new range of threats. This is where people were based at April 1, 1997.

An example of their kit

Former Yugoslavia

Foreign commitments can tie up resources. Take ex-Yugoslavia:

- 1 augmented brigade HQ
- 1 armoured regiment
- 1 armoured infantry battalion
- 1 armoured reconnaissance squadron
- 2 artillery batteries
- 1 light gun battery
- 1 engineer regiment
- National support and communications element
- Jaguar, Hercules, Tristar, Sentry, Lynx, Gazelle, Chinook and Sea King aircraft (RAF complement, except helicopters, based in Italy)

Service	1997	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Navy	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
RAF	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
Army	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800

brigade. In two years' time, this new "air manoeuvre brigade" will acquire powerful American-built Apache attack helicopters. This will become the Army's mobile spearhead (ministers may or may not rechristen it the "air cavalry" this week, depending on how many American war movies they have seen).

The old argument about whether the attack helicopter will eventually replace the main battle tank altogether has been neither ignored nor resolved. The Defence Secretary, George Robertson, for one, was convinced by his visits to Bosnia that even "peacekeeping" operations benefit from the tank's massive presence.

For the air force and the navy, rapid deployment to overseas trouble-spots has always been part of their stock-in-trade. The new demand is that they collaborate from the start on a tri-service basis, with contingency planning and operational command centralised in the PJHQ's Northwood bunker.

As far as naval and air force hardware is concerned, detailed future planning is bedevilled by technical and industrial uncertainties.

Britain is committed on paper to buying 232 Eurofighter aircraft from 2002 onwards. How many we shall actually need, and when, depends among other things on whether the US successfully develops the Joint Strike Fighter, which the Royal Navy wants to replace the Sea Harrier; and which the RAF will probably take. For the time being the number 232 is politically sacrosanct – because it determines how much work British Aerospace receives from the \$40 billion Eurofighter programme.

The RAF is in a similar bind over its future transport fleet, the enhancement of which is a major declared aim of the

SDR. Having ordered some updated Hercules tactical transport aircraft from the US, it has a choice of the European F/A (which the UK is developing with France and Germany) or the American C-17. The UK is committed to supporting the European project, but few people in the MoD believe it will materialise; so leasing some C-17s is now a serious option.

The navy should get the two large 40,000-ton aircraft carriers it wants to replace its three small "Harrier" carriers. The navy's amphibious forces, to put marines ashore in helicopters or landing craft, are secure in the form of two assault ships being built at Barrow-in-Furness.

That leaves the admirals relieved, but worrying how to make their bit of the SDR "cost-neutral", as required by their SDR brief. Can they make do with fewer than 36 destroyers and frigates, by abandoning regular patrols in the Falklands or the West Indies? Or if the Foreign Office objects to that, should they reduce the number of nuclear-powered submarines? These are questions to be thrashed out at this week's ministerial meetings.

The part of the review which would have exercised Old Labour most passionately – the future of the Trident nuclear deterrent – has made surprisingly few waves in Whitehall. The Government will honour its pre-election commitment to reduce Trident missile warhead num-

bers from the present maximum of 96 per submarine. But it may not link the new total explicitly with the former Polaris system, as Labour planned to do in opposition, because the number on Polaris changed over the years from 48 to 32. MoD insiders promise that whatever happens, the structure of the deterrent force will be more "transparent". Meanwhile Trident's alert status has quietly been relaxed, without any announcement.

For now, the main battle to watch will be one between Whitehall departments for the resources to back up the review. But Labour, at least, has lost a reputation it may once have held among the upper echelons of the defence establishment. "Labour is good on defence," said a military source right in the thick of this week's Whitehall battleground. "I'd rather have a strategic defence review every five years than those maddening Treasury raids under the Tories."

Graphics sources: UK Defence Statistics 1997 (DASA/MoD); Ministry of Defence Performance Report 1996-7 (Stationary Office); background briefings; *Orangeleaf*; Paddy Allen; Steve Villiers; Fisher Shady; Research; Mark Espiner. David Fairhall is the Guardian's defence correspondent

The new model Army: designed to drop into overseas trouble-spots at short notice

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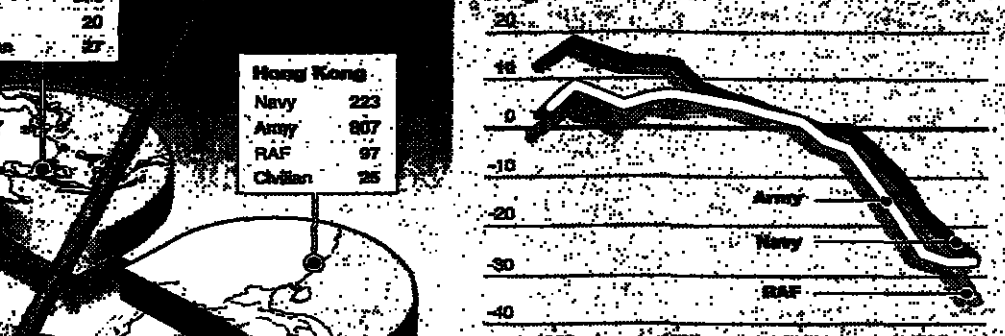
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Changing the guard

Forces of change: Percentage change in UK regular forces strengths from 1990 to 1997



Other Far East: Navy 556, Army 290, RAF 20, Civilians 25

Hong Kong: Navy 223, Army 807, RAF 97, Civilians 25

Other Middle East: Navy 354, Army 1081, RAF 38, Civilians 11

Other: Navy 3, Army 1,189, RAF 1,189, Civilians 1,189

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World Bank is urged to get not-so-poor to help rescue the worst off

Brown's plan for Third World

Alex Brummer
Financial Editor

B RITAIN is to propose a radical reform of the World Bank's lending policy under which the bigger developing countries will pay higher charges for their loans, with the extra income diverted to the globe's poorest nations.

Details of the UK proposal are expected to be unveiled by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, at next month's spring meetings of the World Bank/IMF in Washington and could well find its way on to the agenda for the Birmingham Group of Seven summit in May to be chaired by the

Prime Minister, Tony Blair. The G7 agenda will be tightly focused on the Asian crisis and Britain's efforts to combat debt and poverty in Africa.

To bolster preparations for the meeting, the World Bank president, James Wolfensohn, and the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, are to be invited to the preparatory finance ministers' session in London, which would normally only be attended by ministers and central bankers.

Preliminary work conducted by the UK and discussed with the World Bank, suggests that by charging higher rates to bigger emerging market economies like China, India and Brazil, the

World Bank could generate greater income, which could be diverted to the poorer countries of Africa, Central America and the former Soviet Union, via the Bank's trust funds.

The extra cash would be particularly valuable in advancing the joint World Bank/IMF scheme to forgive the debt of the poorest nations of Africa by the millennium.

The model for the new "commercial" style loans to be made by the World Bank is seen as Korea.

As part of the global rescue operation for the country, the Bank mobilised \$3 billion (£1.8 million) of loans for economic stabilisation on December 23 last year. However, in a break with past practice,

the Bank charged an up-front fee of 3.5 per cent for its services, netting immediate income of \$105 million.

It also doubled its normal interest charge on the loan to 1 per cent above the London inter-bank rate — twice its normal charge of a half point above the London market rate.

Even at these levels, however, the Korean loans were still relatively cheap compared to the interest rates of 2.25 per cent, 2.50 per cent and 2.75 per cent above the London rate charged by commercial banks when they rescheduled their debt.

The more commercial approach adopted — admittedly in difficult circumstances in Korea — is now being seen as a model for World Bank operations. Although Bank credits will still be cheaper and more reliable than those from commercial creditors, the higher charges could be used to generate extra income for the Bank.

This extra income can then be recycled to poor countries like Mozambique, where the international community is seeking to lift the burden of multilateral and bilateral debt.

The UK proposal is likely to be viewed sympathetically by the US, the Bank's largest shareholder. However, there may be less enthusiasm from Germany which until now has shown scant support for the efforts led by the UK to ease the debt burden of the

poorest countries. The UK move is likely to receive a helpful response from the president of the World Bank, who masterminded the highly indebted country initiative and has been anxious to introduce more commercialism to bank's operations.

This reflects Mr Wolfensohn's experience as an investment banker at Schroders in London and later at his own firm in New York.

The UK move is bound to be contentious among the World Bank's big customers, including China and India, which will have factored in cheaper borrowing costs. But since several of these countries run balance of payments surpluses, meeting the extra cost should not be a problem.

Notebook

More flutters than shudders



Edited by
Alex Brummer

THERE would have been a time when the sacking of the entire Russian government would have sent shudders through Moscow's fledgling financial markets.

Not these days, however. True enough, the rouble reacted nervously in early trading, a couple of bond issues might have to be modestly rescheduled, and the central bank cancelled the repo auction after getting just one bid. But even by mature market standards that hardly counts as meltdown; for an emerging market it could be classed as little more than routine volatility.

Reasons for such insouciance are not hard to find. Mr Yeltsin has pledged to keep to the path of economic reform. Indeed one ostensible reason for sacking long time loyalist Viktor Chernomyrdin, Anatoly Chubais, Boris Nemtsov and the rest was that they were not pushing ahead fast enough.

Then there was the small matter of the oil price. The recent slump has hit Russia as well as others. There has been talk that with the oil price on the floor Russian companies have been cutting down on exports. The post-Riyadh price spike should cool such mutterings.

Some Russia watchers argue that Mr Yeltsin's initiative is little more than one of his grand gestures. Many of those sacked — though presumably not Mr Chubais — could soon be back. A word of caution. Russia's economy may be recovering, or at least no longer contracting; its markets less inclined to be spooked. The reshuffle may have been a careful ploy. Then again it may not. Investors should be in no hurry to price western-style political stability fully into Russia's capital markets.

Parking push

TO Sir Donald Gosling and Ronald Hobson, the majority holders in National Parking Corporation — owner of NCP car parks and Green Flag — the arrival of the Americans in the shape of Cendant must seem like a godsend.

Since 1987, when the two founders of National Parking offloaded 35 per cent in the company to institutions, they have been looking at ways of turning their car parks into cash. Having flirted with flotation and then the break-up route (selling off Green Flag) they have finally found a solution: the American way.

The offer by Cendant, which seems to be the ultimate virtual company since it franchises everything it can get its hands on, is a neat solution for the founders and

the new management of Bob Mackenzie, who has struggle to bring the benefits of data transmission to NCP — although users of the NCP franchise, including the state-of-the-art car park on Farrington Road opposite the Guardian's headquarters, could testify to systems which regularly melt down, causing the most horrendous car park jams.

Given the difficulty which the founders have had bringing National Parking to the market, the 17 per cent premium probably looks good enough. Moreover, Cendant will not doubt be using the NCP/Green Flag customer base to sell all manner of services, including no doubt financial products which seem to be the great growth area in the UK. If, as expected, Cendant also uses London as a jump-off point to central bank, the NCP/Green Flag brands could become important job creators for the UK.

One fascinating aspect of all this is the team which has brought the deal to Cendant: Chase Manhattan and Merrill Lynch. These are two financial institutions which have recently been linked as possible merger partners. Deals like this demonstrate what they can do together including arranging takeovers, providing the finance and the distribution for any debt raised or refinanced after the transaction is done. This is exactly the kind of transaction which US investment banks have been doing for British utilities and explains why in the world of megabank, the UK is becoming an also-ran.

Telecoms task

If you were looking for someone to fill the shoes of Donald Cruickshank, Britain's respected telecoms regulator, NatWest Bank might not seem the first place to look.

Nevertheless, the appointment of David Edmonds, former managing director of group central services at the bank, is not as crazy as it looks. NatWest has been innovative in technological investment. Among other things, it was partly responsible for the development of the first smart card, Mondex, which has now been syndicated among a wide group of banks, and it also been innovative in developing personal computer, interactive and internet banking software. Indeed, this is an area where NatWest believes it can hammer home its retail banking advantage in the years ahead.

Not that this will help Mr Edmonds. He now plays on a much bigger canvas. As well as taming BT, which always feels it knows better than the regulators, Mr Edmonds needs to come to grips with the Cruickshank agenda. This includes allowing a proper market to develop in digital broadcasting without allowing Rupert Murdoch to dominate, and developing means to deal with the convergence between software/online providers such as Microsoft, telephony and cable.

Robinson company to pay him a £500,000 dividend

Don Atkinson

PAYMASTER General of Geoffrey Robinson is set to reap dividends worth more than half a million pounds from his holdings in TransTec, the specialist engineering company he founded. The offshore trust of which Mr Robinson and his family are beneficiaries could receive a further £185,000.

The payout follows TransTec's figures for 1997 released yesterday showing pre-tax profits of £1.7 million to £18.7 million and a final dividend of 1.85p per share.

Mr Robinson holds about 15 per cent of TransTec, giving him about 28 million shares. These alone would entitle him to £518,000 in dividends, on top of the half-year dividend payout of about £238,000.

Market reaction to TransTec's results lifted the shares

5p to 82½p, boosting the value of Mr Robinson's holding from £21.7 million to £23 million.

Mr Robinson's personal stake has been placed in a blind trust over which he has no control, as required by the rules governing ministers' interests. On top of his personal stake are the 10 million shares acquired in August 1995 by Shell, a company associated with him, which went on to the Channel Islands trust.

Mr Robinson and his family are discretionary beneficiaries of the trust, which was set up in 1996 at the wish of Belgian businessman Joska Bourgeois. Because Mr Bourgeois was never a British taxpayer, the trust has been free of tax on income and capital gains.

Given Mr Robinson had Chancellor Gordon Brown's drive against tax avoidance, he was vulnerable to attack.

Reuters expands underground



Bank of information... Reuters managing director Julie Holland unveils the news service being offered to the 44,000 London commuters using Bank station. PHOTOGRAPH: REUTERS

City commuters take a step nearer the mobile office

News screens offer Tube travellers opportunity to surface fully primed

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

IT WOULD be misleading to describe it as the information superhighway, although some news-hungry types in the City might view it as being just as indispensable.

Welcome to the Information Trav-o-lator. From yesterday morning, bankers and brokers hurrying

through Bank underground station to spend a long day behind the City's dealing room screens were treated to an important new service. The chance to log on early and arrive at the desk totally primed.

Reuters have erected eight screens along the link between the Waterloo and City line and Bank, giving City commuters the news and sport as it happens. Up-to-date prices, the

very latest headlines, important developments in the bond markets — all there to be consumed as you trundle by on the moving pavement.

Punters merely step on to the trav-o-lator — no need even to read and walk at the same time — and just take in the latest information. It could make all the difference.

There will never again be an adequate excuse for arriving for a day of toil in the money markets and exchanges underinformed.

Take the headlines at 3.30 yesterday afternoon.

"Dahmer-Benz not interested in buying Rolls-Royce from Vickers," read one headline. Unfortunately the screen does not have the time or space to include any of the other things Dahmer-Benz is not interested in doing because it's on to the next headline.

"Clinton preaches democracy, trade and justice on African tour." Our specialist in commodities (Africa) would be grateful for that.

Julie Holland, managing director of Reuters UK and Ireland, said the service would provide the 44,000 passengers with more

recent news than their morning papers. "As the headlines scroll through at a rate of one every six seconds, commuters will have been brought up to date on real-time news from around the world by the time they get to their desks," she said.

Ultimately this nice if rather expensive boarding provides Reuters with a handy way to promote itself as the leading news and information agency. That is particularly useful when rivals, such as Bloomberg, are aggressively trying to steal the limelight.



NCP's new chief seeks dividend from loyal parkers

TONY MAY and DAVID GOW examine the business plan behind Cendant takeover

A MERICAN car-hire and hotels group Cendant is planning to use its \$801 million purchase of National Parking Corporation as a springboard for expansion across Britain and the Continent.

The \$30 billion (£18 billion) company wants to take over the running of hundreds of British local authority car parks. Cendant intends to bring in a loyalty-card scheme offering extra services to the seven million customers who use NCP parking garages and Green Flag emergency rescue service.

While the NCP subsidiary dominates British private car parks, it still claims only 10 or 12 per cent of the total number of parking spaces, of which 80 per cent are controlled by local authorities. Chief executive Bob Mackenzie, aged 44, who has revitalised the car parking group operator, wants to take over running of these sites, in exchange for investment.

He believes that most car owners would rather use a staffed, well-lit car park, protected by closed circuit television instead of leaving a pay-and-display ticket to tell a

thief that the car will be there for two more hours.

Mr Mackenzie also plans to offer car parking customers extra services, ranging from a tyre check to full car servicing and valeting.

Cendant is best known for its Avis, Ramada Inns, Howard Johnson and Travelodge franchised brands and sold one in four US homes last year. It offers the 65 million holders of its petrol and company cards access to shopping, travel, car, and other services.

Stephen Holmes, vice chairman of Cendant, said the company wants to treat regular NCP users as an airline might treat its regular customers, offering them loyalty benefits and the range of Cendant ser-

vices. "NCP and Green Flag customers have not been treated to a loyalty customer service," he said, adding that the company "hasn't had the service mentality we think we can bring to bear."

NCP, which made a profit of £26.1 million in the half year to September 26 on sales of £183.9 million, has a net asset value of £287.7 million.

Since his arrival three years ago, Mr Mackenzie has doubled the value of the company and invested heavily in computer systems and security. He found that while founders Ronald Hobson and Sir Donald Gosling were brilliant at finding sites, their management skills were lacking.

Daily cash collection

receipts from 500 car parks across Britain were filled in by hand. By the time the records were eventually received at head office they were being reconciled with cash in the bank two months in arrears.

There was little computerisation and the group did not know who its biggest customers were. Although it was highly profitable, it missed business opportunities.

The group's market is expanding as the number of cars in the UK is forecast to increase by 10 million — or 50 per cent — by 2025. Mr Mackenzie wants the company to be a highly profitable part of the solution to the problem of congestion on roads and in urban centres that the Gov-

ernment's forthcoming transport White Paper is due to address.

Mr Mackenzie agrees that car use must be restricted if city pollution levels are to be cut but argues that on-street parking is the main culprit and that car parks enable traffic to move freely. He wants to see computer-linked signs at town boundaries and on motorways showing where car parks are and how full they are.

At the same time as the NCP deal, Cendant yesterday agreed to buy Miami-based American Bankers Insurance Group for \$3.1 billion in cash and stock. Cendant will become the largest US seller of insurance through banks, retailers and third parties.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.445	Germany 2.977	Malaysia 6.46	Singapore 2.82
Austria 20.95	Greece 328.83	Malta 0.845	South Africa 1.99
Belgium 61.37	Hong Kong 12.56	Netherlands 3.344	Spain 250.98
Canada 2.203	India 66.78	New Zealand 2.48	Sweden 13.04
Denmark 11.42	Ireland 1.185	Norway 12.34	Switzerland 1.61
Finland 9.117	Israel 6.883	Portugal 304.16	Turkey 382.510
France 9.965	Italy 2.853	Saudi Arabia 6.15	USA 1.831

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and mdrator)

The Guardian
Els in good health after taming Tiger

David Davies

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1850

1900

1950

2000

14 SPORTS NEWS

Football

French face huge fine in tickets row

Jon Henley in Paris and John Duncan

THE World Cup organising committee today faces legal action from the European Commission over its refusal to make more than 110,000 tickets available exclusively outside France. The action could lead to a multi-million-pound fine of up to a 10 per cent of the tournament's revenue.

The EC said that the committee had failed to make the tickets available to non-French residents only, a Commission spokesman said.

"This is not good enough," England supporters have been allocated little more than 9,000 tickets in total for their three group matches.

The Commission first complained last month about the numbers of the 2½ million tickets that had already been sold in France, and last week insisted at a meeting with organisers that the remainder be sold exclusively outside France.

"The CPO is willing to allow all supporters from Europe to have access to these tickets," a spokesman said. "But it refuses to accept that the French public should be excluded from buying these tickets."

He added that they will be sold directly to the public via a telephone hotline with 60 multilingual operators. Buyers will no longer need a French address, payment can be made in currencies other than the franc, and the hotline number is to be advertised overseas and on the World Cup website.

France was told that the Commission considered the allocation policy unfair because it gave French citizens better access to tickets than citizens of other EC countries, which is against EC competition policy.

The Commission gave France two weeks to come up with a formula for selling the extra tickets to foreign fans to redress the balance. The refusal may be partly due to "political pressures", according to a spokesman. That is thought to refer to the fact that French taxpayers stumped up a third of the bill to renovate the stadiums.

The sports minister Tony Banks, who flew out to South America last night to boost England's 2006 campaign to host the tournament, said that though France is in a difficult position, lessons must be learnt. "It has to be remembered by future organisers that when you offer to host the World Cup it is on behalf of the rest of the world not your own behalf," he said. "You have to be sure to be as generous to your guests as you are to yourselves."

The Football Association is keen not to appear to be sniping at the organisers so close to the tournament with its 2006 bid in the pipeline. "We are not going to get involved in the politics of the European Commission," said David Davies, the FA director of communications. "Our priority is to get the last possible ticket for our English supporters and we are not interested in the politics."

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Curcic wedding fillip for Palace

SASA CURCIC, Aston Villa's unsettled Yugoslav midfielder, may be given the chance to salvage his career with Crystal Palace after marrying an English woman.

Curcic, a £1 million target for Palace, faced the prospect of being denied another work permit because he has not played enough games for Villa, but he brought forward his wedding to last Tuesday and has averted the threat of being deported.

Curcic has until 5pm on Thursday, transfer deadline day, to leave Villa Park. Although Palace is his most likely destination, Fulham are also said to be interested in him. "I would be very happy to play for Palace but until I've signed I can't take anything at all for granted," he said.

Rami Gardo looks likely to leave Arsenal at the end of the season and return to his former club Lyons. The 31-year-old French utility player has been at Highbury for two seasons after joining on a free transfer from Strasbourg, but is now hoping to return to the club where he was captain.

He is out of contract in the summer and has had preliminary talks with Lyons. "They have spoken to me and left the door open for a return," said Gardo, who has been a fringe member of the side but has been involved in Arsenal's FA Cup run.

Sir Jack Hayward, president and chairman of Wolves, Arsenal's semi-final opponents, is out of hospital and increasingly optimistic about being at Villa Park to see the sides meet on Sunday week. The 74-year-old is recuperating in Los Angeles after having a triple heart bypass operation last week.

Watford, the stuttering Second Division leaders, have extended the striker Dominic Forster on loan from Wolves until the end of the season. "The Republic of Ireland Under-21 international has been with the Hornets since the beginning of March."

Scotland are seven down

SCOTLAND's manager Craig Brown will be without five midfield players for the World Cup warm-up game against Denmark at Ibrox tomorrow night.

The withdrawal through injury yesterday of Celtic's Paul Lambert and Craig Burley meant Brown was without seven of his original 11 when the squad assembled in Glasgow. The captain Gary McAllister, John Collins and David Hopkin had already been ruled out and the strikers Kevin Gallacher and Gordon Durie are also laid up.

The national team manager has resisted the temptation to call up players from the B team who face Wales tonight. "My reaction to Lambert and

Burley being unavailable is one of disappointment but cometh the hour, cometh the man," Brown said.

"We have players like Stuart McCall, Scott Gemmill and Billy McKinnay to call on, so it's not all gloom."

The Celtic striker Darren Jackson will start the match, possibly partnering Scott Booth, the former Aberdeen player who is on loan to Utrecht from Borussia Dortmund. Brown will decide today whether the goalkeeper Jim Leighton, Tom Boyd or Colin Hendry will be awarded the captaincy.

The Danish squad includes Brian Laudrup, of Rangers, and Celtic's Marc Rieper and Morten Wieghorst.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

0930 16 86 +

Arsenal	60	Everton	73	QPR	88
Aston Villa	61	Hudd. Town	74	Rangers	87
Barnsley	62	Ipswich Town	75	Sheffield United	88
Birmingham	63	Leeds United	76	Sheffield Wed.	89
Blackburn	64	Leicester City	77	Southampton	90
Bolton	65	Liverpool	78	Spurs	91
Brentford	66	Man. City	79	Stoke City	92
Burnley	67	Man. United	80	Sunderland	93
Celtic	68	Millwall	81	West Ham	94
Chelsea	69	Midweek	82	Wimbledon	95
Coventry City	70	Newcastle Utd	83	Wolves	96
Crystal Palace	71	Notwich City	84		
Dorset County	72	Notm. Forest	85		

CALLS COST 50P PER MIN AT ALL TIMES.

SUNDAY 09.45, 15.15, 18.15, 21.15, 23.15, 25.15, 27.15, 29.15, 31.15, 33.15, 35.15, 37.15, 39.15, 41.15, 43.15, 45.15, 47.15, 49.15, 51.15, 53.15, 55.15, 57.15, 59.15, 61.15, 63.15, 65.15, 67.15, 69.15, 71.15, 73.15, 75.15, 77.15, 79.15, 81.15, 83.15, 85.15, 87.15, 89.15, 91.15, 93.15, 95.15, 97.15, 99.15, 101.15, 103.15, 105.15, 107.15, 109.15, 111.15, 113.15, 115.15, 117.15, 119.15, 121.15, 123.15, 125.15, 127.15, 129.15, 131.15, 133.15, 135.15, 137.15, 139.15, 141.15, 143.15, 145.15, 147.15, 149.15, 151.15, 153.15, 155.15, 157.15, 159.15, 161.15, 163.15, 165.15, 167.15, 169.15, 171.15, 173.15, 175.15, 177.15, 179.15, 181.15, 183.15, 185.15, 187.15, 189.15, 191.15, 193.15, 195.15, 197.15, 199.15, 201.15, 203.15, 205.15, 207.15, 209.15, 211.15, 213.15, 215.15, 217.15, 219.15, 221.15, 223.15, 225.15, 227.15, 229.15, 231.15, 233.15, 235.15, 237.15, 239.15, 241.15, 243.15, 245.15, 247.15, 249.15, 251.15, 253.15, 255.15, 257.15, 259.15, 261.15, 263.15, 265.15, 267.15, 269.15, 271.15, 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1907.15, 1909.15, 1911.15, 1913.15, 1915.15, 1917.15, 1919.15, 1921.15, 1923.15, 1925.15, 1927.15, 1929.15, 1931.15, 1933.15, 1935.15, 1937.15, 1939.15, 1941.15, 1943.15, 1945.15, 1947.15, 1949.15, 1951.15, 1953.15, 1955.15, 1957.15, 1959.15, 1961.15, 1963.15, 1965.15, 1967.15, 1969.15, 1971.15, 1973.15, 1975.15, 1977.15, 1979.15, 1981.15, 1983.15, 1985.15, 1987.15, 1989.15, 1991.15, 1993.15, 1995.15, 1997.15, 1999.15, 2001.15, 2003.15, 2005.15, 2007.15, 2009.15, 2011.15, 2013.15, 2015.15, 2017.15, 2019.15, 2021.15, 2023.15, 2025.15, 2027.15, 2029.15, 2031.15, 2033.15, 2035.15, 2037.15, 2039.15, 2041.15, 2043.15, 2045.15, 2047.15, 2049.15, 2051.15, 2053.15, 2055.15, 2057.15, 2059.15, 2061.15, 2063.15, 2065.15, 2067.15, 2069.15, 2071.15, 2073.15, 2075.15, 2077.15, 2079.15, 2081.15, 2083.15, 2085.15, 2087.15, 2089.15, 2091.15, 2093.15, 2095.15, 2097.15, 2099.15, 2101.15, 2103.15, 2105.15, 2107.15, 2109.15, 2111.15, 2113.15, 2115.15, 2117.15, 2119.15, 2121.15, 2123.15, 2125.15, 2127.15, 2129.15, 2131.15, 2133.15, 2135.15, 2137.15, 2139.15, 2141.15, 2143.15, 2145.15, 2147.15, 2149.15, 2151.15, 2153.15, 2155.15, 2157.15, 2159.15, 2161.15, 2163.15, 2165.15, 2167.15, 2169.15, 2171.15, 2173.15, 2175.15, 2177.15, 2179.15, 2181.15, 2183.15, 2185.15, 2187.15, 2189.15, 2191.15, 2193.15, 2195.15, 2197.15, 2199.15, 2201.15, 2203.15, 2205.15, 2207.15, 2209.15, 2211.15, 2213.15, 2215.15, 2217.15, 22

Cricket

Matthew Engel in St John's on the imminent retirement of a great fast bowler and the likely demotion of a stalwart skipper

Curtly by name, deadly by deed

JUST after lunch, eastern Caribbean time, Curtly Ambrose — in the manner that has become devastatingly familiar — cut a ball at fierce pace back into Mike Atherton's pads, and Atherton was lbw Ambrose for the fourth time this series.

He left the crease with a professional's rapidity. But then the import of what had happened seemed to hit him. His walk turned into a defeated trudge. After what seemed an age to us, and probably an aeon to him, he disappeared behind the slatted, whitewashed windows of the Viv Richards Pavilion.

It was the end of his final

appearance on the field as captain of England in a Test match. For now, probably. We think so. Definitely maybe.

Since Atherton still has to lead England in the one-day series, a job he clung on to despite the apparent opposition of the chairman of selectors, the subject of the future captaincy is likely to disappear into whispers and speculation for several weeks. But his walk turned into a defeated trudge. After what seemed an age to us, and probably an aeon to him, he disappeared behind the slatted, whitewashed windows of the Viv Richards Pavilion.

It was his 30th birthday yesterday, a moment for a thoughtful man who has achieved less than he hoped to in his life. A lot of people find it a lugubrious landmark, but at least they generally get a little icing on their cake. Atherton just had another layer of ordure spread on his.

The author Leslie Thomas has noticed that Atherton's career has been the reverse of the normal classic hero story. He ascended to the England captaincy with barely a pause, a care or a setback, from babyhood onwards. Then the troubles of his life began. Maybe he will find happiness if he gives it up or it gives him up. Maybe he will

even find time to try and share a little happiness with everyone else.

Ambrose's raised-rist salute when he took that wicket conveyed not so much elation as expectation. Here was the seigneur claiming what was his by right. It was another small step on Ambrose's path into cricket and Antiguan history.

There are stands at the Antigua Recreation Ground named after Andy Roberts and Richie Richardson. The pavilion is named after Richards, but one stand still has space for another name and one suspects Ambrose will get priority.

Watching him bowl from the far end of the ground, head regally poised as ever, was the person who is now known locally as Dr Vivian Richards. W G Grace was said

to have had his medical deficiencies, and Dr Richards might be very short on bedside manner. His is apparently an honorary doctorate from the University of Exeter, which is a relief.

He has also been given a rare dignity by the University of the West Indies, which has produced a book of essays in his honour, the sort of accolade usually granted to academics of the status of Isaiah Berlin. It is called *A Spirit of Dominance*, a reasonable motif for the past three days.

In his introduction, the editor Hilary Beckles says: "Sir Garfield Sobers had gloriously entertained the in-crowds at Lord's with his genius; Rich-

ards, however, intimidated, mocked and perhaps humiliated such gatherings. It was political, he said so."

Richards is now taking tourists on boat trips round the island, meeting and greeting, in between bits of broadcasting and promotional work and outrageously lucrative trips to coach the son of the Sultan of Brunei.

He warmly greets people he barely noticed or actually threatened in his playing days. There has been a touching reconciliation with the Daily Express columnist James Lawton, the man he famously stayed off the field to confront in the Test here eight years ago.

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Ambrose ... regal

Beckles somewhat over-heatedly compares Richards's visit to Brunei to the exiles of the slave leaders Toussaint L'Ouverture and Marcus Garvey.

One contributor quotes Bob Marley for Richards: *Stars could not hold me. Force could not control me. Now they try to put me down. But Jah want I around.*

I wonder if Ambrose or Atherton will do any meeting or greeting in retirement.

Tennis

My best win this year, says Henman

Stephen Brierley at Key Biscayne

"I CAN'T believe it's not butter," proclaimed the electronic advertising hoarding at the back of the grandstand court before Tim Henman played Spain's Carlos Moya yesterday. Henman might well have misread it as "I can't believe it's not better."

He knew he had been striking the ball wonderfully well in practice and yesterday he finally managed to transfer this form to a match, beating last year's beaten Australian Open finalist 6-1, 6-4 to reach the last 16 of the Lipton Championships.

"He is a very good player but this was the best match I have played this year," said Henman, who punched the air at victory in an obvious mixture of joy and relief.

This has been a difficult year for Henman. There has been no doubting his determination to haul himself out of the trough of despair but he has perhaps been unsure which path would lead him back towards more success.

That path is signposted "attack" and he duly jumped all over the Spaniard, whose own confidence is currently at a low ebb. A backhand pass in the second set, one of a very few, saw Moya raise both arms to the skies in ironic triumph.

There were times last year when Moya was placing the ball in the corners of the court at will. No longer. His forehand yesterday was quite wretched and Henman never allowed him to settle into any sort of rhythm.

The morning talk was not of tennis, but of Martina Hingis's first boyfriend, Julian Alonso. He is the 20-year-old Spaniard who by a small coincidence beat Henman in the second round here last year. His current conquest is seen by most as rather more impressive.

The Lipton was a pivotal moment in Henman's career last year, for it was after the

defeat by Alonso that he took the decision, previously put off, to enter hospital for surgery to remove pieces of floating bone in his right elbow.

This year's tournament may be every bit as crucial. After a first-round defeat against Wayne Black at the hands of the Spaniard, Henman arrived in Miami this time concerned more with his mental rather than physical wellbeing.

Henman was terribly nervous before his opening win against South Africa's Grant Stafford but totally convinced he had to reproduce on hard court the sort of focused, sharp and aggressive form that has served him so well at the past two Wimbledon.

Henman's talent is there for all to see. "In some ways he has too many shots," said David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain.

After the previous night's rain, which had wiped out Greg Rusedski's third-round match against Marc Rosset, the morning began cool and clear, as was Henman's head.

His first serve was working well and he immediately broke Moya to love. The Spaniard was patently struggling but glimpsed an avenue of recovery in the fifth game with Henman 15-40 down. The British No. 2 quickly shot out the light with a stark cross-court backhand volley and an ace. Moya shook his head and gazed mournfully at his toes.

The little mid-court skip, a sure indicator of Henman's confidence, had returned, whereas Moya slouched up and down the baseline with ever-increasing dejection.

Doleful also summed up the mood of Pete Sampras, who was beaten 6-5, 7-6, 6-3 by South Africa's Wayne Ferreira after squandering two match points, the second with a double fault.

It is possible Sampras may no longer be the world No. 1 by the end of this week, and there were those loudly inquiring yesterday whether the American, the holder of 10 Grand Slam titles and the dominant male force of the Nineties, may be on the slide.



Study in concentration ... as Tim Henman beats Carlos Moya in straight sets yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSKILL

South Africa v Sri Lanka

First Test, final day

Donald double sets up victory

TWO wickets off successive deliveries by Allan Donald proved decisive for South Africa when they beat Sri Lanka by 70 runs to win the first Test at the Newlands ground in Cape Town yesterday.

Chasing 377 to win, Sri Lanka resumed at 120 for three on the final morning and had advanced steadily to 234 for five when Donald, in his second over with the new ball, trapped Hashan Tillakaratne lbw for 13 to break a 59-run partnership with Ramesh Kaluwitharana.

The incoming batsman Chaminda Vaas was caught behind off the next ball, although television replays suggested it did not touch his bat.

In the next over Shaun Pollock bowled Kaluwitharana, who got an inside edge on to his stumps after being forced on the back foot.

Kaluwitharana had played some magnificent strokes as he added 45 off 69 balls, including eight fours, to give his side a glimpse of an improbable triumph. Sri Lanka's cause looked hopeless at 239 for eight, still 136 short of victory, but Pramodaya Wickramasinghe attacked the fast bowlers.

He and Muttiah Muralidharan put on 48 in 32 minutes for the ninth wicket before Muralidharan was run out. Wickramasinghe reached his

50 in 39 balls before South Africa's new cap Makhaya Ntini bowled him to end the Sri Lankan innings at 306. The end came 28 minutes before tea and with 37.5 overs to spare.

South Africa's left-arm spinner Paul Adams had made the first breakthrough of the day by having the opener Marvan Atapattu caught and bowled for 71. Four runs and 17 balls later Arjuna Ranatunga went for 43, edging a drive off the medium-pace Jacques Kallis to Gary Kirsten at first slip.

The second and final Test starts at Pretoria's Centurion Park on Friday.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 418 (2nd O'Connell 115, 5 Pollock 82, G Kirsten 62, Muralidharan 4-135).

SRI LANKA: First innings 306 (A de Silva 77, M Atapattu 82, Pollock 4-43).

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 264 (H Gonde 74, D Cluffen 58, Jayasuriya 4-53, M Muralidharan 4-106).

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight: 120-5)

M Atapattu c b Adams	71
A Ranatunga c Kirsten b Kallis	43
J Tillakaratne lbw b Donald	13
R Kaluwitharana b Pollock	45
C Vaas c Boucher b Donald	61
P Wickramasinghe b M Muralidharan	10
M Muralidharan run out	9
R Puthugethiran not out	16
Extras (lb, nb, wd)	16
Total (95.3 overs)	306

Fall of wickets: 171, 176, 234, 239, 287.

South Africa won by 70 runs and lead series 1-0.

Zimbabwe v Pakistan

Second Test, third day

Waseem's highest score gives Pakistan the edge

INSPIRED by a career-best 192 from Mohammad Waseem, Pakistan dominated a sweltering third day against Zimbabwe in the second Test in Harare yesterday. By the close Zimbabwe, 82 for three in their second innings, had an overall lead of five.

Waseem, who hit 23 fours in his 9hr 30min innings, helped the ninth and 10th wickets add 167 as Pakistan recovered from their overnight 190 for eight. Instead of trailing on first innings Pakistan, bowled out for 354, had a lead of 77.

Waseem, who has made only one other century at Test level — 109 on his debut against New Zealand in Lahore during the 1996-97 season — was dropped by the bowler Mupfema Mbangwa on 81, survived a sharp cut to short leg on 86, was put down at the second attempt at first slip on 125 and gave a difficult chance to the wicketkeeper Andy Flower on 192.

But without further addition he was brilliantly caught by a diving Mbangwa to end his side's innings and provide

the medium-pace Guy Whittall with final figures of three for 79.

The home side got off to a shaky start in reply, being reduced to 38 for three in the 16th over before Murray Goodwin and Andy Flower, both 25 not out, saw out the rest of the day.

ZIMBABWE: First innings 277 (G Whittall 62, M Goodwin 53, S Brang 53, Waqar Younis 4-74).

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight: 190-8)

Muhammad Waseem c Mbangwa	192
M Goodwin	53
Muhammad Asif c Campbell b Brang	5
Waqar Younis not out	2
Extras (lb, nb, wd)	11
Total (147.5 overs)	354

Fall of wickets: 35, 38, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Rowing

Cambridge weigh in bigger than ever for Boat Race

Christopher Dodd

CAMBRIDGE weighed in the heaviest and tallest crew in the history of the Boat Race, with an average weight of 145lb 6oz and an average height of 6ft 5in.

With a lighter cox and oarsmen's weight advantage of 13lb per man over Oxford, the inevitable question is: "Will a good big 'un beat a good little 'un?" The answer statistically is yes, but in 1998 Oxford won with a total weight disadvantage of almost 11st.

Some in the Cambridge contingent yesterday were suggesting that crews may be reaching their upper limit in terms of height and weight, especially at Radcliffe. No. 4 in the Cambridge boat, who has had to change sides this year because the talent on the Cam was biased towards the bow side.

A big man who is out of phase with the rest is a much bigger problem than a fly-

weight doing his own thing in the bow. The Cambridge crew and oarsmen are certainly aware that the way they get off the stakeboat and settle down is crucial to securing the full benefit of their advantage. Rough water at the start could give them a very hard time.

Oxford weigh an average of more than 14st but their new coach Sean Bowden is a technician who learned his trade as a lightweight oarsman and has coached some of Britain's most successful lightweight crews. He is not fazed by his crew's weight disadvantage, even though it was an Oxford crew who won in 1990 with the biggest-ever weight advantage, 29st10lb per man.

Toby Wallace, Cambridge's No. 6, did not appear at the weigh-in because of a throat infection.

Both crews look good on the water and both expect to have to fight all the way to the finish on Saturday in the manner of last year's race.

The race should provide a fitting finale for Beefeater Gin, who are in their 12th and last year of sponsorship. It has been a period in which the sponsor and the two clubs have developed a fruitful partnership. The Boat Race is looking for a successor willing to stake £1 million a year.

Athletics

Lottery bonus for Radcliffe

Duncan Mackay in Marrakech

PAULA RADCLIFFE yesterday praised National Lottery funding for helping British athletics to turn the corner. Her silver medal here in the world cross-country championships, coupled with a bronze in the team race, set the seal on a successful spell for the sport.

Her achievements at the weekend followed the world record set by the triple jumper Ashia Hansen and John Maycock's unexpected victory in the 3,000 metres at the European Indoor Championships in Valencia this month and helped dispel the gloom since the British Athletic

Federation was declared insolvent five months ago. Radcliffe had prepared by training in Albuquerque and Portugal at the expense of Performance Athlete Services, the company set up to administer the distribution of more than £2 million of lottery funding.

"The way PAS is supporting our needs means we are being backed for the first time," Radcliffe said. "The BAF never supported athletes to this extent. There was no communication."

"I have been paid five pence in the pound of what I was owed when the BAF went into administration. But I would sacrifice all I am owed for what we have now in the new set-up."

"The money I did not receive made up about one

third of my yearly earnings and I have a mortgage to pay. But I would have spent money on warm-weather training which has been covered by the PAS, so it has balanced itself out."

"Athletes in Britain are always being compared to those from other European countries but people forget the support they receive. We have it now and the way forward looks good."

Norman Brock, Britain's director of endurance running, plans to extend support for the country's top athletes as they prepare for next year's world cross-country championships in Belfast. "Marrakech was tangible evidence of what can be achieved with a proper use of Lottery funding," he said.

Ice Hockey

Brum shuns Superleague

Vic Batcheider

BLAKE CULLEN, a millionaire businessman, has withdrawn his bid for the Birmingham Superleague franchise because trade shows and conventions at the National Exhibition Centre will prevent ice being laid in time for the 1998-99 season.

"I have told the NEC I am not going to wait another year," said Cullen, a former vice-president of the Chicago Cubs baseball club. "It just didn't appeal to me, so I guess it kind of concludes matters. I have other options over here, which I will be pursuing really hard."

The British National Ice Hockey League's directors were delighted with the success of the first end-of-season play-offs weekend staged at the Hull Arena.

The event, supported by the city council, marked a major step forward for the BNHL, which was formed eight months ago. Last year's equivalent competition was part of the supporting bill for the Superleague final.

"Who would have thought last August that we would have had such growth culminating in our very own successful play-offs weekend," said the league's chairman John Brady, adding that the clubs saw it as "the launch pad for the league."

Guildford Flames beat the home-team Kingston Hawks 5-1 in Sunday's final, the two sides having respectively defeated Telford (5-3) and Fife (7-3) in the semi-finals on Saturday.

Rallying

McRae and Subaru make merry in fast lane

David Williams in Visau

COLIN MCRAE's rivals fished for explanations but there was a single persuasive reason for his devastating performance yesterday in the Rally of Portugal's first leg: he desperately needs a result.

But even the Scot seemed surprised to find himself leading by 44.2sec, a handsome advantage after three days never mind one. "The car feels very good, the tyres are very good and I want 10 points," he said.

All McRae's bravado maybe in vain, however, as it seems that he has an engine problem — water appears to be becoming mixed with engine oil — which if true is ominously similar to the fault that eliminated him from the Safari Rally.

Richard Burns is in sixth and on course for his best result in this rally, but it was a frustrating day for the Mitsubishi team and Burns's ability to match his team-mate, the world champion Tommi Makinen, has not disguised the

fact that their cars were less competitive than usual.

"The car doesn't seem as well-balanced as it usually is," conceded Burns. Makinen used less diplomatic language. "Maybe they start to be a bit old. I don't know what is wrong," he said.

For McRae running first today is not such an advantage as gravel can make the road more slippery. Moreover his nearest challengers, the world championship joint-leaders Juha Kankkunen and Carlos Sainz, have both won here.

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The Guardian

INTERACTIVE

SportsGuardian

England backs to the wall

West Indies v England: sixth Test, fourth day

Atherton heads for the exit

Mike Selvey in St John's

ENOUGH has happened in this series for it to be clear that in this game nothing is certain. But all the indications at the Recreation Ground here yesterday were that the Mike Atherton era is coming to an end.

He took over the England captaincy from Graham Gooch 4½ years ago. Now, 52 Tests on, England are battling to avoid their third defeat of what in reality has been a close series, and the chances are that the side will have a

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First innings 127 (Ambrose 3-25, Richardson 4-29).
WEST INDIES: First innings (see yesterday, 401-4).
R C Holder 2 to 0, C L Hooper not out 100, J R Murray 0, M J G Hussey 0, D L Houghton 0, G L Thompson not out 19, C L Ambrose not out 62.
Extras (lb 14, nb 10) 24.
Total (for 1 day, 1st over) 800.

Full of wickets (see 401, 402).
D L Houghton 2 to 0, C L Hooper not out 100, J R Murray 0, M J G Hussey 0, D L Houghton 0, G L Thompson not out 19, C L Ambrose not out 62.
Extras (lb 14, nb 10) 24.
Total (for 1 day, 1st over) 800.

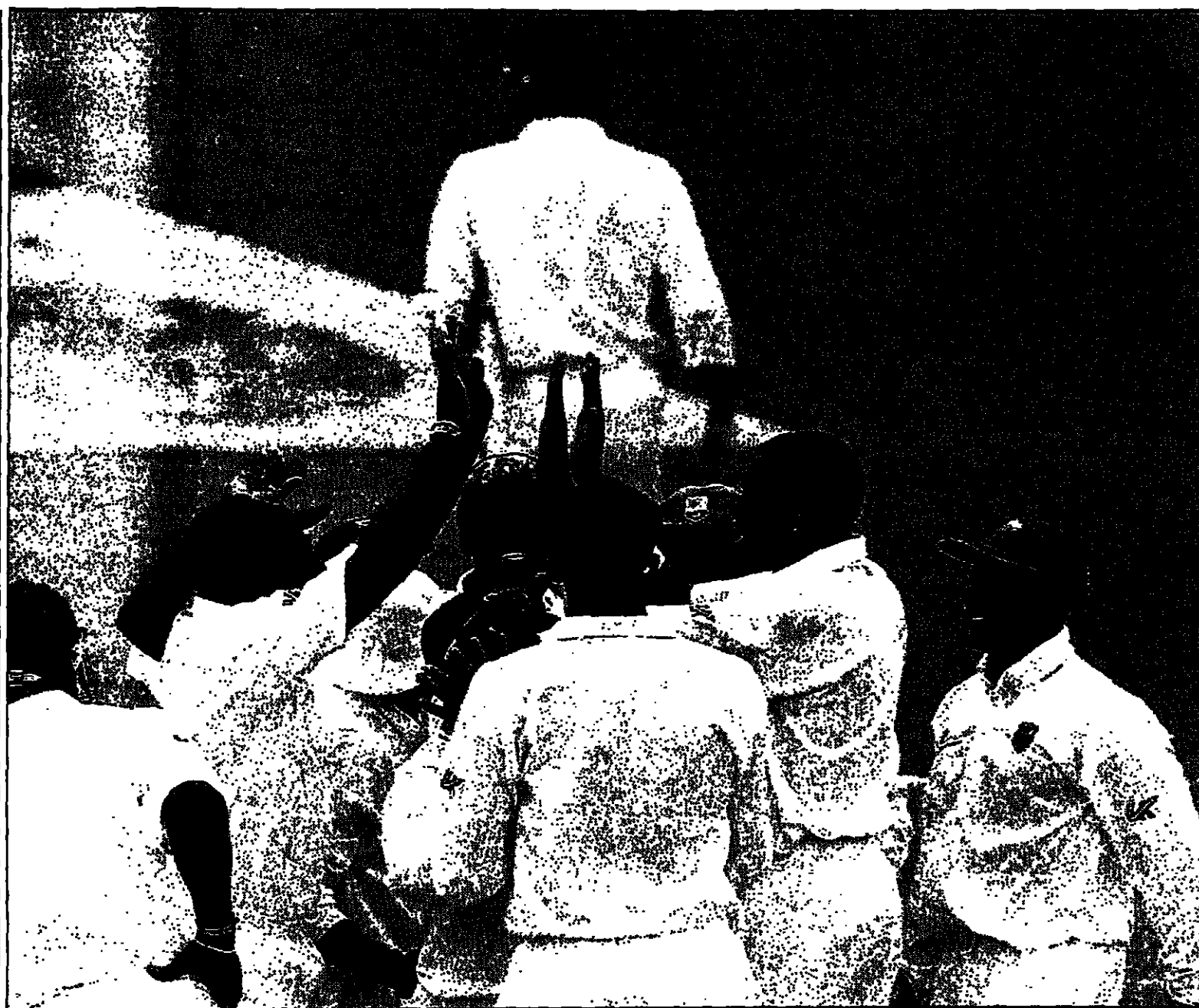
ENGLAND: Second innings 133 (A Atherton 56 to 0, A J Stewart 0, M J G Hussey 0, D L Houghton 0, G L Thompson not out 19, C L Ambrose not out 62).
Extras (lb 14, nb 10) 24.
Total (for 1 day, 1st over) 800.

new leader by the time South Africa arrive for the summer. Set to score 373 to avoid an innings defeat after Brian Lara had declared the West Indies innings closed after little more than an hour's play at 500 for seven, a monumental effort of concentration, application and technique would be required from the England batsmen if they were to survive 74 overs plus a full day's play today.

This is a situation in which England so often call on Atherton, the bloody-minded, stubborn batsman whose century rarely carry the team to victory but almost without exception make sure they do not lose. His unbeaten 185 compiled in Johannesburg over 11 hours of toil remains a benchmark for defiance in any age.

Not here, though. Atherton, on his 30th birthday, made only 13 before he fell victim to Curtly Ambrose for the 15th and almost certainly last time in the 41 innings that they have faced one another.

Instead it was Alec Stewart, the leading contender among a slender group of Atherton's heirs apparent, who puffed up



Down and out... Michael Atherton turns his back on West Indian celebrations at his departure, leg before to Curtly Ambrose for 13. REBECCA NADEN

his Surrey chest and rattled out his defiance, taking the attack to the home bowlers. Timing the ball sweetly, he hit nine boundaries — driven, cut and pulled with panache from pacemen and spinners alike — before he was caught at short leg off bat and pad for 79 flicking at Carl Hooper.

It left England wallowing at 165 for three — Mark Butcher earlier having completed a pair to become Ambrose's 30th wicket of the series — with Nasser Hussain (50) and Graham Thorpe (14) trying to take the game into the final day.

Until his dismissal scarcely anything unsettled Stewart, his composure leaving him only once, shortly before tea,

when, on 72, he drove loosely at Dinanath Ramnarine's leg spin and mistimed the shot to deepish mid-off, where Ambrose misjudged the chance, pushing it over the bar in a manner that would have had Peter Schmeichel purring in admiration.

There was a terrible familiarity about the demise of the England captain, though, and it stems from the capacity of Ambrose — a facility given to all great fast bowlers — to be able to operate on four-fifths throttle and then, when the moment suits, to bang in the afterburner.

In Atherton's case it always coincides with a ball that is slanted in, catching him before he has a chance to move

his feet. Yesterday's delivery caught him on the crease, the fourth time Ambrose has seen him off in this way this winter, and if the captain's body-language suggested that he felt a sense of injustice at Cyril Mitchell's leg-before decision, a dressing-room replay might have persuaded him that the ball, which struck him just above the knee roll of his pad, would have clipped the top of the stumps.

Atherton has always said that he would recognise when the time was right to relinquish the captaincy and he, not to mention the selectors, might decide that enough is enough. Already he has made the sort of noises about want-

ing to carry on as an international batsman that suggest he is weary of the job now. But there has to be a nagging doubt as to whether even now he must be allowed to go.

This side has played good cricket throughout the series and this has been the only genuinely one-sided match. It has been Atherton's misfortune, however, not to be blessed with a high-class bowling attack — and that would be a matter of no matter who was running the side.

The demolition of the England bowling was completed in the morning when Hooper completed the ninth century of a mercurial Test career. By the time Brian Lara had pulled the plug on the innings

he had reached 108, with 17 boundaries. Given its apparently destructive nature, it was a surprise to find Hooper's innings had occupied 150 deliveries, 97 more than Viv Richards' illustrious effort here a dozen years ago.

The great man was watching yesterday in the ground with a pavilion that bears his name. It was not so easy on the first day when he was turned away from the gate for not having a pass. He was allowed in only when he presented credentials to show that he was in fact Trevor Bailey. Fame, even in these parts, really is transitory.

Matthew Engel, page 15

Time to choose who plays Rocky II



Jim White

NEVER mind Istabraq in the Champion Hurdle, the biggest certainty of the year was that by the time he boarded the plane for Switzerland, Glenn Hoddle's England squad would be shorn of its contingent of Manchester United players.

Not someone renowned for his generosity to the Sassanach cause at the best of times, Alex Ferguson's predicament at home guaranteed that David Beckham, Nicky Butt and the others would be spending this week recuperating on the treatment tables at the Cliff rather than wearing the three lions on their shirt.

Of the seven United players picked by Hoddle, only Teddy Sheringham was able to join the Switzerland-bound party. The player was presumably allowed to go by Ferguson on the assumption that, the way he has been leading United's attack recently, another game might ease him back into some sort of form.

Thus, with Arsene Wenger also taking the Ferguson line and preferring that most of Arsenal's England players preserve their energies for the assault on the Double, and with Paul Gascoigne, Ian Wright and David Seaman already out, it will hardly be his dream team Glenn Hoddle fields against the Swiss tomorrow.

There was a conspiracy theory circulating informed quarters after the England manager announced his team for the Chile game last month, that he had deliberately selected a weakened side.

Alarmed, so the conjecture went, about over-hyped expectations of England's chances in the World Cup, he wanted to deflate the pressure a notch or two. Home defeat by an unfancied side who had recently struggled against New Zealand would serve such a function admirably.

If Hoddle really were that deviant, he would have been thrilled about this week's turn of events. In truth, it is much more likely that he will be wondering why he is bothered. After all, the validity of any England game has to be questioned when the first name on the team sheet is Martin Keown.

Hoddle is putting a diplomatic spin on things yesterday. He sympathised with club managers, he said, and understood that at this time of year, when domestic competition is reaching its climax, injuries can occur. Though he was tactful enough not to discuss the advances in sports medicine that enable players apparently barely capable of walking in international week suddenly to be able to tear round like spring lambs once club combat is resumed.

It was ever thus for England managers; their best interests have perpetually been hampered by more parochial priorities. Whatever his alleged machiavellian instincts, Hoddle — following the unanswerable logic that the more frequently they play together, the better they will get — would prefer to field his strongest team. Precedent suggests, however, that the first time he will be able to do that will be on June 14.

Though Hoddle will elicit some sympathy, the real victims in the perpetual skirmishing between club and country are those players on the fringe of selection but who have been withdrawn.

It is always around now that someone in the marzipan layer makes a break for the main party, running into form at precisely the right time. Martin Peters did it in 1966. David Platt did it in 1990.

But what history does not record are those players who found themselves overtaken on the last bend. They were in contention only to slip away at the last minute, individuals who never got the chance to show what they were worth because club commitments kept them out of the warm-up games in which their rivals shone.

It happened to Liverpool's Peter Thompson in 1966 and Arsenal's David Rocastle in 1990. Albeit neither of them certainly for the final squad, they were always in with a shout until eased out by the unfortunate happenstance of being withdrawn by their clubs at precisely the moment Peters and Platt made their dashes from obscurity.

So although the chances of some of Hoddle's emergency replacements this week — making the final party are only marginally greater than the likelihood of Douglas Hall topping the popular vote as Tynesider of the Year, there will be others who might just seize the moment tomorrow.

Meanwhile, back in the physiotherapy rooms at Highbury and Old Trafford, the likes of Ray Parlour and Andy Cole will be praying that the unfortunate timing of their minor knocks does not prove terminal to their summer ambitions.

Redknapp ready to take his cue

David Lacey in Berne finds Glenn Hoddle has creative gaps to fill in England's friendly against Switzerland tomorrow

GLENN HODDLE briefed reporters at the South Bucks Cricket Ground on the day morning and then left for Switzerland with an England squad looking a little low on trumps. If injuries have not wrecked his latest World Cup preparations, they have surely put a number of imponderables on hold.

Hoddle's response to losing nine players for tomorrow's friendly against the Swiss in the Wankdorf Stadium here has been measured rather than melodramatic. Jamie Redknapp and Dominic Matteo are due to play in the Under-21 match in Aarau tonight and then join the senior party.

This will bring the number of Liverpool players in the squad to five, a sharp contrast to the situation last summer when the withdrawals of Steve McManaman and Rob-

bie Fowler that so annoyed Hoddle left the team dominated by Manchester United. Now, of the seven United players called up for this game, only Teddy Sheringham has survived, and his form and fitness are in doubt.

Cue Redknapp, surely? Having lost David Beckham and Paul Scholes and decided that Paul Gascoigne was too short of match practice to be considered, Hoddle has even fewer creative players than were available for last month's game against Chile when England were outplayed to a 2-0 defeat.

Redknapp is no Gascoigne but he has good vision, a thunderous shot and can split a defence with a well-timed pass. He is due to play sweeper for the Under-21s as Hoddle looks beyond the World Cup to the qualifiers for the 2000 European Championship. But

France this summer is England's immediate concern.

Hoddle is in urgent need of fresh options in midfield to complement the blood-and-guts approach of Paul Ince and David Batty's creative limitations. It would appear Paul Merson or McManaman will be given a free role behind the front runners tomorrow.

But Redknapp's international career has been so beset by injury problems that it would be a pity if he missed an obvious opportunity to restate his case. Hoddle could accommodate his skills and still play Merson or McManaman.

For the moment, however, Hoddle will be more interested in discovering if Matteo can become an emergency left-back should Andy Hinckellife be forced out with a sore Achilles tendon. The loss of Hinckellife, following the withdrawal of Gary and

Philip Neville, has left England with no other specialist full-back in the squad.

True, Sol Campbell and Martin Keown have performed capably in this role for Tottenham and Arsenal respectively but in the present England set-up full-backs have to be wing-backs and, apart from Graeme Le Saux,



Redknapp... good vision

another casualty this week, none of Hoddle's first choices is fully strung to the role.

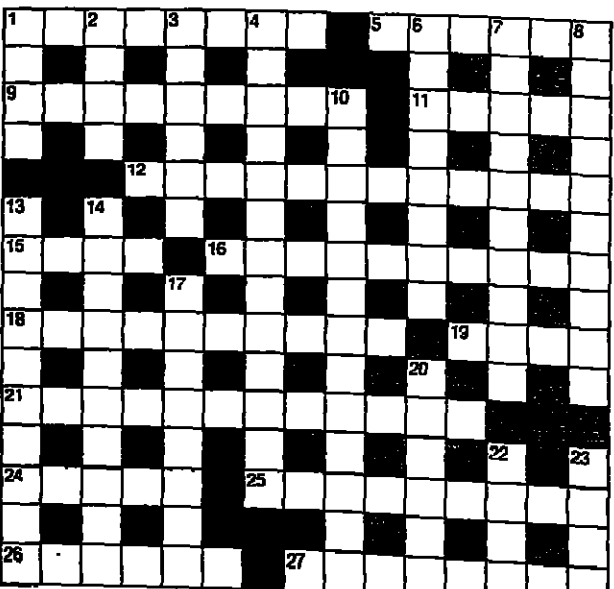
In any case, with Tony Adams dropping out on Sunday to have 10 days' remedial treatment on back and ankle injuries, Campbell and Keown will be needed in central defence, unless Hoddle feels this is the moment for Dion Dublin to prove his versatility at international level.

The principal point of tomorrow's game was always going to involve Alan Shearer's first start for England in nine months. Having missed more than half the season following a cruciate ligament injury last August, Shearer is set to lead out England for the first time since last summer's Tournoi de France.

But who will be his partner? Normally it would be Sheringham, although present circumstances favour Michael Owen, a success against Chile, being given the chance to play alongside the striker most likely to bring England success in the World Cup.

Guardian Crossword No 21,230

Set by Janus



Across

- 1 Train Island driver (8)
- 5 Some coupon chosen to obtain a waterproof cape (5)
- 9 Matches of celestial manufacture? (9)
- 11 Where for example youth leader may take exercise (5)
- 12 A plain diet at disposal of singer (7,5)
- 15 Turn round in a small island (4)
- 16 Ammunition left behind by wagon train, perhaps (10)
- 18 Magnificent memorials to a slum mouse? (10)
- 19 It is forbidden to some Atlanta bus drivers (4)
- 21 Bad conduct having bearing on motorways (12)
- 24 Run away with English pole-vaulter (5)

Down

- 2 Leader with a chaise to match (9)
- 26 Jael's victim is a long time getting to the point (6)
- 27 "Twinkletons" the schoolboy's secret (8)
- 1 Where company doctor might make a splash (4)
- 2 Bill concerning land measure (4)
- 3 Capital arrangement for celebration after show (6)
- 4 Novel landing financial backer on sidewalk (5,8)
- 6 Roman author includes rape scene and is extravagantly remunerated (8)
- 7 Code message from underground call upsetting Mingo (10)
- 8 Animal tales reported on press course (6,4)

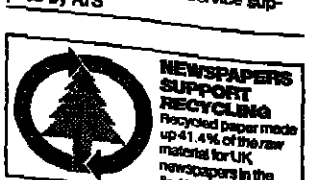


CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,230

- 10 Simulating holiness, Simon can't break promises (13)
- 13 Tears apart underworld representatives (10)
- 14 In dogs, is no different from sudden attacks (10)
- 17 Ancestor in favour of a beer perhaps (8)
- 20 Not at home with group at start (6)
- 22 Retreat over foreign currency (4)
- 23 Almost a hundred attend church in style (4)

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Women, who had thought that football was a puerile activity which kept men out of the house instead of doing their share of Saturday afternoon childcare, began to wonder if they had misjudged it — that it really was the beautiful game, that it had a philosophical beauty all its own.

Linda Grant on why the Newcastle revelations confirm women's fears about football

G2 page 7

Can the...
Blair...
shirt...
need...
lea...
Backpool...
Inside...